

# GAZETTEER OF INDIA

**TAMIL NADU STATE**



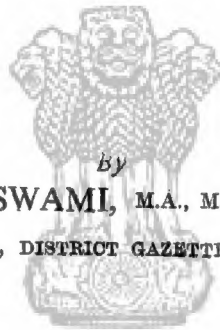
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**RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT**



# TAMIL NADU DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

**RAMANATHAPURAM**



*by*

**Dr. A. RAMASWAMI, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D. (Lond.),**  
STATE EDITOR, DISTRICT GAZETTEERS, (1961—68).

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**M. KARUNANIDHI**  
CHIEF MINISTER



**FORT ST. GEORGE**  
**MADRAS-9**

## FOREWORD

Gazetteer is the most dependable source of information for administrators, scholars and public on social, political, economic and cultural life of the people.

Gazetteer literature gained in volume and variety during the early British period. The earlier Gazetteers were written primarily for the use of British administrators. Yet they are recognised as repositories of accurate and authentic information about the land and the people.

The practice of Gazetteer writing was in vogue in this State as early as 1862 in which year the Government of Madras directed that a District Manual be drawn up for each district. These Manuals were the fore-runners of the District Gazetteers and the Imperial Gazetteers published at a later period.

After independence, when the need for revised District Gazetteers was felt the work of revision of Gazetteers was taken up as one of the important activities under Cultural Programmes of the Five-Year Plans.

A modern Gazetteer is not merely a guide book or a directory, but it deals with many important topics and serves as a reference book. A Gazetteer throws light on our traditions. It reflects our civilisation and is a mirror of society. Its study helps to illumine our thoughts of past with pride and to be hopeful about our future with confidence. The need of the Gazetteers will be appreciated more with the passage of time. These Gazetteers help us to know and understand the country and its people better.

By publishing the Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer, a valuable contribution has been made to the study of the social history of the District. It is comprehensive and informative in dealing with the important aspects of the life of the people of the District. I hope that this Gazetteer would serve as a useful guide to all those who are engaged in the administration, welfare and research activities of the State.

(Sd.) M. Karunanidhi,  
14th June, 1972,

## PREFACE.

This Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer is the first Gazetteer for that District. The District was formed in 1910 by carving out certain portions from the Madurai and the Tirunelveli districts. The details relating to the formation of the District are given in Chapter I—"General" of this volume. Ramnad District Manual by Raja Rama Rau was the previous source of information to certain extent for this Gazetteer. Statistical Appendices for the Ramnad District were also published in three volumes in 1915, 1929 and 1933 respectively.

Apart from these publications, Manual of the Tinnevely District in the Madras Presidency by A. J. Stuart (1879), A Political and General History of the District of Tinnevely in the Presidency of Madras by the Right. Rev. (Dr.) Caldwell (1881), Tinnevely District Gazetteer by H. R. Pate (1917), Madura District Manual (in 5 parts) by J. H. Nelson, (1868), and the Madura District Gazetteer by W. Francis (1906) were valuable sources of information not only to the Gazetteers of the Tirunelveli and Madurai districts but also to the Gazetteer of the Ramanathapuram District since the latter had been carved out of the former two districts. All these Manuals and Gazetteers mentioned above were either published in the later part of the 19th century or in the beginning of the 20th century.

Significant developments and phenomenal changes have taken place in all the districts of our country after the publication of these Manuals and Gazetteers, especially after the dawn of independence. The materials compiled and featured in these books became out of tune with the

change of time. Revision of all the old District Gazetteers or writing up of fresh Gazetteers for the Districts which have no Gazetteer has therefore become necessary.

The work of revising and re-writing the District Gazetteers was begun in this State in 1954 before the introduction of the scheme of the General Revision of Gazetteers throughout India from 1958. The Late Dr. B. S. Baliga, the Curator of the then Madras Record Office now nomenclatured as Tamil Nadu Archives, was entrusted with the work of revision of the Gazetteers. Before his demise, in 1958, he had prepared draft chapters for the Tanjore District Handbook and for the District Gazetteers of Madurai, South Arcot and Coimbatore, and they were published in 1957, 1960, 1962 and 1965 respectively. In revising the District Gazetteers, Dr. B. S. Baliga, pursued a pattern of his own by which he incorporated much of the materials available in the old Gazetteers and Manuals and also the materials available from the records in the Madras Record Office.

In 1958, the Government of India sponsored a scheme for the revision and publication of Gazetteers for all the districts in India. Under the scheme, a new pattern was devised by the Government of India for the revision of the Gazetteers, so that all the Gazetteers revised and re-written in the country might have a broad and basic uniformity. According to the scheme, the post of the State Editor was created in 1961 in this State and the ~~of~~ work of revising and re-writing the Gazetteers was entrusted to him.

Under the new scheme and pattern, Salem District Gazetteer was published in 1967. This Gazetteer was compiled and edited by Dr. A. Ramaswami, the then State Editor of the District Gazetteers, Gazetteer Unit.

The Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer is the sixth publication of this series in the State. The draft of this Gazetteer had been compiled and edited by the former State Editor, Dr. A. Ramaswamy during his tenure of office from 2nd February 1961 to 1st February 1968. Since many facts and figures have changed considerably, they have been revised and also brought up-to-date. It has been my pleasure to carry out these changes and see it through the press. I take this opportunity to tender to him my cordial thanks.

No pains have been spared to keep abreast of developments in the District in many spheres and to collect and make use of the latest possible data from the diverse and scattered sources and to make the publication as accurate and self-contained as possible. Useful appendices, an index, a glossary, a considerable number of illustrations, a select bibliography and a general map of the District have been included in this volume.

Ramanathapuram District is unique in many respects. This is the only District in the State which has its headquarters located outside the district limits, the reason for which is dealt with in the Chapter I—"General". There were two big and famous Zamins—viz., Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga in this region. These Zamins and some portions of Madurai and Tirunelveli districts were grouped together and the new District was formed. Among many important places in the District Rameswaram is popularly known as Benares of the South. People from all over India visit Rameswaram. A noteworthy feature of the Rameswaram temple is its beautiful pillared corridor. This corridor is the longest in the world. On the structure of this temple, Fergusson J. says, "If it is proposed to

select one temple which should exhibit all the beauties of the Dravidian style in their greatest perfection and at the same time exemplify all its characteristic defects of design, the choice would almost inevitably fall on that of Rameswaram". Srivilliputtur is a well known pilgrim centre associated with Sri Andal, a great Vaishnavite Saintess, whose "pasurams" are as popular in Tamil Nadu as Meerabai's devotional songs in the North. The temple at Kalaiyarkoil is famous for its architectural grandeur. Kalaiyarkoil is also historically famous because this place is associated with the Marudhu brothers who fought against the British during the later half of the 18th century. Virudhunagar and Sattur are very important business centres. Sivakasi is well known all over India for its fire works and litho printing. Another important town in the District is Rajapalayam, a growing industrial town. This town is famous for textile industries and for a special variety of hunting dogs. Karaikkudi has developed into a famous educational centre. The well known Centraj Electro Chemical Research Institute is located here. Kila-karai is famous for chank fishing and at Mantapam a Marine Fisheries Research Institute of the Government of India is located. Details relating to these places and other important places are found in the last chapter "Places of Interest".

The earliest inhabitants of the District are Mukkulattar viz., the Kallars, the Maravars and the Agamudaiyars—the virile communities with martial traditions. Their inhabitation of the District is time immemorial and perhaps they are one among the original inhabitants of the sub-continent. Nadars also form an important community in the Ramanathapuram District. They have become popular due to their successful trade and commerce. The Nattukkottai Chettiars are another important community in the District. They are the most enterprising of all

the trading castes in the South, travelling freely to Burma, Ceylon, Malaysia and other Asian and European countries. Most of them live in Chettinad. The Raju Community at Rajapalayam stands as an exclusive social unit, having all its social relationship confined in and around Rajapalayam. The persons belonging to Scheduled Castes are found in considerable number in all the taluks of the District. They are mostly agricultural labourers.

The Paliyars, a nomadic hill tribe, who for the most part move in small parties through the jungle-clad gorges that fringe the hilly regions of Srivilliputtur are ethnologically an important tribe of the District. They speak Tamil with a peculiar intonation which renders it scarcely intelligible. With the rapid spread of various ameliorative measures taken by the Government in recent years the social and economic advancements of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes have registered a marked progress.

The Muslims of the District are the descendants of the early colonists from Arabia. They first settled along the sea coast, chiefly in Kilakkarai, Devipatnam, Mantapam, Pamban and other places which enabled them to trade freely with Ceylon and gradually extended their colonies into the interior of the District. They have adopted Tamil as their language. Some great Tamil poets hail from them.

Numerically the Christian Community forms the third major religious group in the District. The regions of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Madurai had been fertile fields for the Christian Missionary activity from 1600 A.D. The details relating to Christian Missionaries are dealt with in the chapter on "People".

The accent and dialects of the people of the District are somewhat different from those of the people in other parts of the State. Some peculiar words in usage in the District are collected and given in the Chapter on "People".



The excess of female population has been a permanent feature of the District. This fact can be confirmed by the perusal of the sex ratio since 1901. As per the Census of 1971, the sex ratio of the District is 1,044 females for every 1,000 males. It is because there was a considerable emigration of males, leaving their females behind to seek their livelihood elsewhere in the country or abroad.

A write up relating to "Sethu Samudram Project" is given in the Chapter on "Communications". The Ramanathapuram District may draw the attention of the maritime world on the completion of the Sethu Samudram Project which may become the Suez of Asia.

Ramanathapuram which was considered as an under-developed District has progressed very much recently in various spheres like education, industry, etc. Latest developments in the District are dealt with in all the chapters as far as possible.

I extend my warm thanks to a number of officers at various levels, of the different departments of the State Government and of the Central Government working in the State, especially to the Census Department, Survey and Land Records Department, Collector of the District and also many knowledgeable individuals and persons in non-official institutions who have been of immense help in providing the latest particulars and giving their suggestions for the improvement of the material, and also to the Director of Stationery and Printing Madras and the staff of the Government Press who extended close co-operation in meeting the several requirements of printing of this voluminous work of an extra ordinary character.

I owe special thanks to the Revenue Department for their constructive, helpful and sympathetic approach and attitude towards the requirements of this Unit and its working.

I am very much obliged to Thiru S. Viswanathan, I.A.S., II Member, Board of Revenue, Thiru R. Pasupathi, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Late A. S. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Co-operation Department, Thiru V. Sundaram, I.A.S., Deputy Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department for their keen interest in this work and their valuable guidance and help to me.

My thanks are also due to Professors of the Madras, Madurai and Annamalai Universities who helped this unit in various ways to verify and improve the materials given in many chapters, especially to Late Dr. M. Arokiaswami, the Professor of History, Madras University, who scrutinised the chapter on "History" and gave his valuable suggestions to improve the chapter.

Further, I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my grateful thanks to Dr. P. N. Chopra, M.A., Ph.D., Editor, Indian Gazetteers and the Compilers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Department of Culture, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, for their effective role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The Unit scrutinised the draft of this volume with great care and made a number of helpful suggestions with a view to improve the standard and quality of the publication. It may also be mentioned here that a portion of the expenditure incurred on the compilation and printing of the District Gazetteers is being met by the Government of India.

I am thankful to Thiru S. Singarajan, Director of Archives and Thiru C. K. Gopalan Nambiar, Assistant Director of Archives and their staff for the facilities afforded for the consultation of the valuable material available in the Tamil Nadu Archives.

My thanks are due to Thiru S. Pasupathi, Special Tahsildar for District Gazetteers, Ramanathapuram, who was very helpful in collecting and furnishing material from various departments of the District. I thank the Compilers, Thirumathi Lakshmi Gopalan, Thiru B. S. Selvaraj and Selvi S. Anuradha and also a few more compilers who left the service and the Office Assistant, Thiru C. Subbarayan, and the other members of the staff of the Gazetteer Unit for their co-operation and assistance rendered to me in bringing out this Gazetteer.

Quality and thoroughness are of the highest value in an enduring work of this nature. A complex work of this magnitude which is of abiding interest and importance to the society, cannot be just hustled through. However, within several limitations, every strenuous endeavour has been made to attain the best possible quality, thoroughness and comprehensiveness by bestowing constant and meticulous attention.

My grateful thanks are due to our Honourable Chief Minister, Kalaingar Dr. M. Karunanidhi, who was kind enough to glance through this Volume and for giving a foreword to this book, in spite of his multifarious pre-occupations and heavy work.

Gazetteer Unit,  
(Revenue Department),  
No. 6, Gandhi-Irwin Road,  
Egmore, Madras-8.  
15th June, 1972.

**N. AMIRTHALINGAM,**  
*State Editor, District Gazetteers.*

# GAZETTEER OF RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

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Preface—by the State Editor, District Gazetteers.

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# Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer

## CHAPTER I—GENERAL.

*The Origin of the Name of the District* :—This District created in 1910 by carving out portions from the Madurai and the Tirunelveli Districts was named as the Ramanathapuram District after the name of the important zamindari town, *Ramanathapuram*. Lord *Ramanathaswamy* who has His temple at Rameswaram, it is said according to popular legend, had directed his faithful servant, *Guha* to build a town near the *Sethu* (Adam's Bridge). The town was called *Mugavainagaram*. Then the town appears to have been very near the sea and even now it is occasionally referred to as *Mugavai*. This town was later known as Ramanathapuram<sup>1</sup>. Its association with the name of *Rama* and its proximity to the *Sethu* would justify the town being considered a very ancient one.

In the early days of Empire building by the British, this region was called by them, *Ramnad*, and this name continued to be current for sometime even after the dawn of independence for the county. This anglicised name, *Ramnad*, was however, later changed into *Ramanathapuram* to be more in conformity with the Tamil name for the region.

*The Location of the District* :—Ramanathapuram District in Madras is located within 9°07' and 10°22', north latitudes and 77°20' and 79°25' east longitudes and has an area of about 12,500 sq. km. It is bounded on the north-west by Madurai, on the north by Tiruchirappalli, on the north-east by Thanjavur, on the south-west by Tirunelveli and on the east and south-east by the Bay of Bengal. It is one of the seven coastal districts of the Madras State<sup>2</sup> and lies on the eastern sea-coast of the southern sub-continent of India, with a projection into the west, wedging between Madurai and Tirunelveli districts.

The District comprises of nine taluks—Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Sivaganga, Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Paramagudi, Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram. The taluks of Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Aruppukkottai are situated in the projection of the District extending from east to west and are wedged in between the

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1. For more details, see the note on the place in *Chapter XIX : Places of Interest*.

2. The other six coastal districts of the State are Madras, Chingleput, South-Arcot, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari.

Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. The Mudukulathur and the Ramanathapuram taluks are situated on the south above the Gulf of Mannar. The Ramanathapuram Taluk narrows down towards the east and juts into the sea between the Gulf of Mannar on the south and the Palk Bay on the north, terminating in the Island of Rameswaram, which is separated from the mainland by the Pamban passage. Tiruvadanai is also a coastal taluk of the District. The Tiruppattur Taluk lies on the northern extremity of the District. The Sivaganga Taluk lies on the north-west wedged in between the Tiruppattur Taluk and the Aruppukkottai Taluk. The Paramakudi Taluk lies on the eastern-side of the District with the Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai taluks on its north and the Mudukulathur and Ramanathapuram taluks on its south. Though this taluk lies towards the eastern boundary of the District, it has no sea-coast.

*The Boundaries of the District* :—The District sprawls west to east from the Western Ghats to the Bay of Bengal. The Kerala State abuts the District on the west, on its south-western corner. A short account of the natural and artificial boundaries of the District is given in the succeeding paragraphs :

*Natural Boundaries* :—The following are the natural external boundaries of the District:—

(i) The Palk Strait of the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mannar form the eastern and south-eastern boundaries of the District

(ii) The Pamban river forms the common boundary between the District and the Thanjavur District on the north-eastern side.

(iii) The Periar forms the common boundary on the north-western side between the Srivilliputtur forests of the District and the Saptur and Gandamanaickanur forests of the Madurai District.

(iv) The Deviar forms the common boundary on the south-western side between the Seithur forests of the District and the Siva Giri forests of the Tirunelveli District.

*Artificial Boundaries* :—(i) The other external boundaries of the District are artificial. The inter district boundary separating the Madurai-Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts on the north and the Tirunelveli District on the south is indicated by a cleared line, 60 feet (18.28 metres) wide.

(ii) The outer boundaries of the forest reserves of Srivilliputtur are cleared lines 12 to 18 feet (3.65 to 5.48 metres) wide except where streams or rivers are utilised as boundaries. Rough stone cairns are placed along the cleared lines at angles and salient points in the case of some reserves.

(iii) *Inter-State boundary* :—The western boundary of the District separates it from the Kerala State. This boundary was demarcated presumably by the Survey of India, by cut lines and 2½ feet (0.76 metre) stone pillars or survey stones at salient points marked with

conch marks on the Kerala side and with arrow marks with reserved forest letters along only a portion of this inter-State boundary which delimits the reserves of the Srivilliputtur Forest Range. Where pillars could not be sunk the conch and arrow marks were carved on the surface of embeded rocks found on the line. This line appears to have been cleared annually until 1929, from funds proportionately contributed by both the Governments, but appears to have been subsequently abandoned in view of the expenses in carrying out such a work. Plain survey stones have been erected on the Madras side along the inter-State boundary delimiting the Seithur-ex-estate forests with the Kerala State; but the cut line formed at the time of the first survey does not seem to have been recleared at all, as the Seithur forests were under Zamindari control until they were taken over by the Government recently. The inter-State boundary line which is now over grown, is a water-shed boundary about 19 kilometres (12 miles) in length at an elevation of about 1,500 metres or 5,000 feet and more.

*Area and population of the District* :—The District which is a long strip, angular in shape and sprawls from the Western Ghats on the west to the Bay of Bengal on the east, covers an area of 12,559 square kilometres or 4,849 square miles according to the Surveyor-General of India and 12,506·1 square kilometres or 4,828·6 square miles according to the Central Survey Office, Madras, which is the State Land Record Department<sup>1</sup>. From the point of view of its area, the District stands sixth among the fourteen districts of the State. The following figures show the rural and urban components of the total geographical area of the District<sup>2</sup>.

|       |    |    |    |    |    |    | Area in                |                  |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------|------------------|
|       |    |    |    |    |    |    | Square<br>Kilo metres. | Square<br>Miles. |
| Rural | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12,153·9               | 4,692·6          |
| Urban | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 352·2                  | 136·0            |
| Total | .. |    |    |    |    |    | 12,506·1               | 4,828·6          |

There are 1,427 inhabited villages and 186 uninhabited villages in the District. The total number of towns in the District is 35. The population of the District according to the 1961 Census is 2,421,788

1. The figures relating to the area in square kilometres and the corresponding figures in square miles are slightly adjusted by the Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras, to make the taluk and the district totals agree. The exact area is 4,849·20 square miles according to the Surveyor-General of India and 4,828·38 square miles according to the Central Survey Office, Madras (vide Government of India : *Census of India, 1961, Volume IX—Madras—Part II-A—General Population Tables, 1963, Page 73*).

2. The area figures in square kilometres of urban areas of taluks and districts have been worked out by the Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras, based on the area figures corrected to two places of decimals obtained by adding the areas of towns in the respective units. (Vide *Census of India 1961, Volume IX, op. cit.*)

persons. Of this total population, 1,175,769 persons are males and the rest (1,246,019 persons) are females. In the District, 1,822,307 persons live in rural areas and 5,99,481 persons in urban areas. The density of population of the District is not very high. Excepting the Nilgiris, the density of population of this District (502 persons per square mile) is the lowest in the State.

The table below shows the total geographical area, total population, the number of villages and towns in each of the nine taluks of the District :—

| Taluk.                     | Area in         |                | Population (1961). | Number of villages. |              | Number of Towns. |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|
|                            | Sq. Km.         | Sq. mile.      |                    | Inhabited.          | Uninhabited. |                  |
| (1)                        | (2)             | (3)            | (4)                | (5)                 | (6)          | (7)              |
| 1. Tiruppattur ..          | 1,469.8         | 567.5          | 313,095            | 160                 | ..           | 9                |
| 2. Sivaganga ..            | 1,702.4         | 657.3          | 266,538            | 193                 | 91           |                  |
| 3. Tiruvallur ..           | 1,419.3         | 548.0          | 217,873            | 146                 | 1            |                  |
| 4. Paramagudi ..           | 1,139.4         | 439.9          | 225,643            | 187                 | 8            | 3                |
| 5. Ramanathapuram ..       | 865.6           | 334.2          | 192,228            | 99                  | 6            | 4                |
| 6. Mudukulattur ..         | 1,666.9         | 643.6          | 234,123            | 150                 | 6            | 2                |
| 7. Aruppukkottai ..        | 1,599.9         | 617.7          | 269,306            | 211                 | 41           | 2                |
| 8. Sattur ..               | 1,498.3         | 578.5          | 353,852            | 198                 | 15           | 3                |
| 9. Srivilliputtur ..       | 1,144.5         | 441.9          | 349,130            | 83                  | 8            | 5                |
| <b>District Total :</b> .. | <b>12,506.1</b> | <b>4,828.6</b> | <b>2,421,788</b>   | <b>1,427</b>        | <b>186</b>   | <b>35</b>        |

The population of the District according to the 1971 Census is 2,857,424. Of this population, 1,398,196 persons are males and the rest (1,459,229 persons) are females. In the District 2,111,833 persons live in rural areas and 745,591 persons in urban areas. The density of population of this District is 227 persons per square kilometre.

*History of the Evolution of the District* :—The District was constituted in the year 1910 with portions carved out of the old Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. The two great zamindaris of Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai which formed part of the old Madurai District and the re-constituted Government taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur which formerly formed part of the old Tirunelveli District. Before tracing the history relating to the formation of this new District in 1910, the important aspects in the history of the administrative changes of the major part of the area comprised in the new District in earlier times may be narrated briefly.

According to historians, the normal extend of the *Pandyan Kingdom* in the *Sangam Age* corresponded to the modern districts of Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Madurai, with the *Southern Vellar* for its northern boundary<sup>1</sup>.

The District was the home of the Maravars, a race of people noted for their martial traditions. During the Pandyan hegemony the local chieftains of the area, administered the territory and paid tributes to the Pandyan monarchs. The Pandyan dynasty remained as the rulers of the District right upto about the tenth century A.D., when it passed under the Cholas, but it reverted again to the Pandyas some years later. During the Chola overlordship, the Marava country was the scene of many a battle between the Pandyas and the Imperial Cholas. The strategic importance of the District lay in the location of the passage to Ceylon in it. For a time during the 12th Century A.D., the whole of the Marava country also fell under the sway of the King of Ceylon through his General Lankapura. The Ceylonese reign, however, lasted only for a few years and the Marava country once again became a part of the Pandyan Empire. It continued to be under the Pandyan rule till 1311 when Malik-kafur invaded Madurai. The Muslim invasion, however, did not very much affect the administration of the Marava country. It continued to be ruled by the hereditary chieftains. With the fall of the Madurai Sultanate, the country passed under the Vijayanagar Empire. Viswanatha Nayaka (1529-1564) and his able minister Dalavoy Ariyanathar ruled the Marava country through two commissioners, but this administrative experiment did not succeed. It was, however, Muthu Krishnappa Nayaka (1601-1609) who effected the settlement of the Marava country. He made one Sadike Deva Udayan Sethupathi, the Chief of the Poligars and the Viceroy of the Marava country. Thus the Sethupathi was made the ruler of the Marava country, with delegated authority. The areas comprised by the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks remained under the control of the Nayakas of Madurai until the attack by the Nawab of Arcot aided by the British. In the first half of the eighteenth century, the Nayak Kingdom of Madurai began to *eclipse* and slowly the Nawabs of Arcot had begun to be powerful. Soon, the English also appeared on the scene. There was a struggle between the Frenchmen and the English for the mastery over the Madras

1. Nilukanta Sastri, K.A. ; *The Pandyan Kingdom*, 1929, Page 25

Presidency. This struggle after many vicissitudes ended in the victory for the latter, who obtained from the Nawab of the Carnatic, the management and control of all the Carnatic Provinces including the areas occupied by the present Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts. In the year 1790, a Board of Assigned Revenues was created to administer the revenues, and Benjamin Torin was appointed the first Collector of Tirunelveli and the Dependent Poligars. The Srivilliputtur Taluk formed part of the District of Tirunelveli and rest of the District formed part of the newly carved out Madurai District. By another treaty executed by the English with the Nawab in 1792, the poligars were placed under the authority of the East India Company. The agreement created dual control. On the 12th of July, 1792 Benjamin Torin (who under the "Assumption" of 1790 had already been appointed "Collector of Tirunelveli and the Dependant Poligars") received a new commission under the style of "Collector of Zamindar and Poligars peshkash in the Tinnevelly, Madura, Ramnad and Sivaganga districts." The Nawab had his own Renter, Muhammed Eitbar Khan, at Tirunelveli, and nominal authority of that sovereign, as preserved to him by the treaty of 1792, left an open door for his interference in the management of Poligars. The Nawab complained that the Poligars did not respect his renter, whilst, the Collector of Peshkash found that the Nawab was taking upon himself to issue instructions direct to the Poligars without reference to the Company's Government. A decade of acute anxiety caused by a succession of rebellions by local chieftains followed. Finally on the 31st July 1801, an agreement was effected with the Nawab of the Carnatic by which the exclusive administration of the civil and military Governments of all the territories and dependancies of the Carnatic was handed over to the East India Company in perpetuity, and the areas forming part of the present Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts were thus brought under the new sovereign power. In the year (1801) Lushington took charge as the "Collector of Tinnevelly and the Maravars". He retained charge of the *Palaiyams* of Sivaganga and Ramnad. His Head Assistant, Parish was in 1803 appointed Collector of the newly formed "Zilla of Ramnad" which included the Zamin of Sivaganga, the districts of Dindigul and Madura and also the Zamin of Tirunelveli. In 1808 however, this Ramnad Zilla was abolished and the 25 Tinnevelly Zamin were incorporated in the Tirunelveli District. Earlier in 1802, Lushington submitted a comprehensive scheme for the settlement of the southern palaiyams. The proposals were accepted by the Government in 1803 and in the same year 25 Poligars received *sanad-i-milkivat-i-istimar*, or deeds of permanent settlement and thereafter became *zamindars*. Of the 25 *zamindaris*, 6 were Ramnad Estates—Viz., Mannarkottai, Sennalgudi, Koilpatti, Sattur, Pavali and Kollankondan. These six Ramnad Estates later passed on to the Ramanathapuram District on its creation in 1910<sup>1</sup>.

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1. Pate H. R., *Tinnevelly District Gazetteer, Volume I*, 1917, pages 270—317.

At the closing years of the nineteenth century the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Zamins which now form the greater part of the area of the present Ramanathapuram District, formed part of the Ramnad sub-division of the Madura District. The Ramnad sub-division consisted of the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Estates<sup>1</sup>. The former of these was subdivided for purposes of administration into the *Zamindari Tahsils* of Ramnad, Tiruvadanai, Paramagudi, Tiruchuli and Mudukulattur, while Sivaganga, Tirupattur and Tirupuvanam were comprised in the latter. The Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the present Ramanathapuram District formed part of the old Tirunelveli District.

The circumstances that led to the formation of the District in 1910 may now be briefly described. As early as 1901, the Government of India suggested to the Government of Madras that the divisional charges in the Madras Presidency should be equalised as far as possible. The question of reducing the district charges in the Madras Presidency was, however, not new. The famine of 1876-78 had brought out vividly before the Government the need for a reform of the Madras district organisation. A prolonged correspondence on the subject took place between the Government of Madras and the Government of India. However, the matter was not pursued and was dropped in 1887. The necessity of reducing the heavier divisions and taluks was once again recognised in 1901. The Government, however, felt that no satisfactory proposals could be placed before the Government of India until the whole question of the extent of divisional charges was dealt with district by district, on a consideration of the work falling to each Divisional Officer, which in turn depended on the area, population, revenue, land tenure, irrigation, crime, physical features and local peculiarities of each division. The Government felt that an increase in the number of divisional charges would involve the reconstruction of some of the districts and possibly the formation of some new districts. Therefore to study the matter in all its aspects and to submit comprehensive proposals, the Government in 1902 placed on special duty Sir William Meyer of the Indian Civil Service. After local investigations in consultation with the Board of Revenue and the District Officers, Meyer submitted his report in 1904. Among other proposals, his scheme provided for the addition of three new districts and the creation of sixteen additional divisions and seventeen additional taluks.

Sir William Meyer recognised that the Madurai District admittedly occupied a high place among those most in need of relief by reason of its great area (8,700 square miles) and large population

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<sup>1</sup> It may be mentioned here that the Sivaganga Estate also formed part of the Ramnad Estate earlier; but about 1780 one of the Sethupathis was forced to surrender about two fifths of his possessions to the Poligar of Nalkottai, who thereafter became independent. In 1803, the English entered with a permanent settlement with the Zamindari.

(nearly 3 millions) the increase in irrigation and revenue work anticipated consequent on the full development of the Periyar Project, the heavy income-tax work in the District, and the large number of municipalities, local boards and unions in it. The old Madurai District had six taluks and seven zamindaris grouped into four divisions. The need for giving relief to this District had been recognised ever since 1878. The charge of the District was beyond the capacity of a single officer and in 1903, the Collector and Magistrate had the assistance of a special Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate who was also given the powers of an additional District Magistrate. Meyer, therefore, proposed to reduce the administrative work of the Madurai District by the exclusion of the Ramnad Division and to make it (the Ramnad Division) the nucleus of a new district. The Ramnad Division accounted for about two-thirds of the income-tax work of the Madura District and over one-half of its rent suits and about one third of its criminal work. The Ramnad Division was, however, considered not of sufficient importance to be constituted into a district by itself. Therefore, it was proposed to add to it the southern portion of the Pattukkottai Taluk from the Thanjavur District and the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks from the District of Tirunelveli. The Tirunelveli District then with an area of 5,389 square miles and a population of over two millions had nine taluks grouped into four divisions. It was one of the heaviest districts in the Presidency in point of land revenue administration and it contained a turbulent population for the control of which a punitive police force had to be maintained. So it was felt that the administration of the District of Tirunelveli would be lightened by the transfer from it of the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks to the new Ramnad District<sup>1</sup>.

In brief, according to Sir William Meyer's proposals for the constitution of the new Ramnad District, the new District was to consist of the Ramnad Division of Madurai *plus* Sattur Division of Tirunelveli (less a certain portion of the Sattur Taluk which was to remain with Tirunelveli) *plus* the Arantangi portion of the Pattukkottai Taluk of the Thanjavur District. The new District was to be provided with a District and Sessions Judge as well as with a Collector<sup>2</sup>.

In 1909, however, the Government decided to postpone the constitution of the new Ramanathapuram District and to await the improvement of railway communications between its constituent parts<sup>3</sup>. At the same time the Government sanctioned certain re-arrangement of the divisions which included the splitting up of the old Ramnad Division into two a Ramnad Division and a Devakottai Division. Later in March 1910, however, as the Secretary of

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1. G.O. Press Nos. 794-795, Public, dated 26th September 1904.

2. G.O. No. 212, Public, dated 17th March 1910.

3. G.O. No. 552, Public, dated 3rd August 1909.



State had sanctioned Sir William Meyer's District Schemes, including the constitution of the Ramanathapuram District, and as the High Court also thought it desirable that the Ramanathapuram District should be constituted as a separate unit for judicial purposes as early as possible, the Government decided to constitute the new Ramanathapuram District immediately. The difficulty hitherto felt in regard to railway communication between the different parts of the District was proposed to be met by allowing the Collector and the District Judge to have their head-quarters in the Madurai Town<sup>1</sup>. The Government accordingly ordered the creation of the Ramnadi District as suggested by Sir William Meyer but leaving out the Arantangi strip from Thanjavur. The head-quarters of the District was to be Madurai<sup>2</sup>. The Government placed J. F. Bryant of the Indian Civil Service on special duty to attend to the necessary arrangements for the constitution of the District<sup>3</sup>, which was to come into existence on the 1st day of June 1910<sup>4</sup>.

The Revenue Divisions, Taluks and Deputy Tahsildaris, as ordered to be constituted on the 1st day of June 1910, were as follows<sup>5</sup>:—

| <i>Divisions.</i> |       | <i>Taluks and Deputy Tahsildaris.</i>  |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| (1)               |       | (2)  |
| I. Ramanathapuram | ..    | Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur, Paramagudi, Aruppukkottai.   |
| II. Devakottai    | .. .. | Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Sivaganga, including the Tiruppuvanam Taluk of the Sivaganga Zamindari less that portion of it which belongs to Aruppukkottai Deputy Tahsildari.   |
| III. Sattur       | .. .. | Srivilliputtur, Sattur exclusive of 31 villages in the Sattur taluk notified to be transferred to the Ottapidaram Taluk, Tuticorin Division, Tirunelveli District, but inclusive of 31 villages notified to be transferred to the Sattur Taluk from the Ottapidaram and Sankarankoil taluks in the Tirunelveli District. |

When the new District was formed the old administrative units were generally adhered to as far as possible. The zamindari taluk of Tiruppuvanam was, however, transferred from the Madurai Taluk to the Sivaganga Deputy Tahsildar's Division.

A few villages belonged to Tirunelveli for revenue purposes and to Ramanathapuram for magisterial or police purposes, but this divided jurisdiction was removed in 1910. The principle adopted was to transfer all enclaves to the District which surrounded

1. Government Memorandum No. 788-4, Public, dated 3rd March 1910, in G.O. No. 212, Public, dated 17th March 1910.

2. G.O. No. 212, Public, dated 17th March 1910.

3. Ibid.

4. G.O. No. 399, Public, dated 23rd May 1910.

5. Ibid.

them<sup>1</sup>. J. F. Bryant, the Officer on Special Duty for the constitution of the District, was also appointed as the first Collector and District Magistrate on the formation of the District.

*The Headquarters of the District:*—This is the only District in the State which has its headquarters located outside the District limits. The headquarters of the District is Madurai. At the time of the formation of the District, Ramanathapuram was thought of as a possible choice. But “the rich Nattukkottai Chettiars of Chettinad, the influential Rajus of Rajapalayam and the District Board representing the entire District protested against the location of the headquarters at Ramanathapuram”. They preferred Madurai to Ramanathapuram, as it was an ancient and well developed city. It had good communication facilities and had already attracted towards itself a sizable amount of trade and banking of these parts. Ramanathapuram on the other hand suffered from the inadequacy of communication, locational disadvantage and experienced all round the year, scarcity of water.

Considering all these various factors, the Government agreed to locate the headquarters of the District at Madurai.

It is now being popularly felt that this sprawling District should have a capital of its own. Among the various places thought of in this connection are Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Manamadurai. In making the final choice of a place for the location of the District Headquarters, a number of factors, viz., historical association, central location, availability of transport and communication facilities, adequate supply of water for the town and space for the erection of buildings have to be taken into account. It is indeed a task to reconcile these factors and ultimately choose a place among contending claims.

*The Administrative Divisions of the District:*—Till recently there were only three administrative (revenue) divisions in the District with three taluks in each of the Divisions as shown below :—

| <i>Name of the division.</i> |    |    |    | <i>Headquarters.</i> |    |    | <i>Taluks comprised in the Division.</i> |  |  |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----------------------|----|----|--|--|--|
| (1)                          |    |    |    | (2)                  |    |    | (3)                                      |  |  |
| Devakottai                   | .. | .. | .. | Devakottai           | .. | .. | 1. Tiruppattur.                          |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 2. Sivaganga                             |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 3. Tiruvadanai                           |  |  |
| Sivakasi                     | .. | .. | .. | Sivakasi             | .. | .. | 1. Srivilliputtur.                       |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 2. Sattur.                               |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 3. Aruppukkottai.                        |  |  |
| Ramanathapuram               | .. | .. | .. | Ramanathapuram       | .. | .. | 1. Paramagudi.                           |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 2. Mudukulattur.                         |  |  |
|                              |    |    |    |                      |    |    | 3. Ramanathapuram.                       |  |  |

Consequent on the abolition of Zamindaris, a revised administrative set up became necessary. The revised administrative set up was given effect to from 1st August 1962. An additional revenue division, viz., the Sivaganga Division with headquarters at Sivaganga was formed with effect from 1st August 1962 and consequently changes were made in the jurisdiction of the Revenue Divisions in the District. The new divisions and the taluks and sub-taluks comprised in each Division are as follows :—

| <i>Name of the Division.</i> | <i>Headquarters.</i> | <i>Taluks.</i>  | <i>Sub-taluks.</i>                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| (1)                          | (2)                  | (3)   | (4)   |
| 1. Sivakasi .. ..            | Sivakasi ..          | 1. Sattur ..<br>2. Srivilliputtur ..<br>3. Aruppukkottai. | Virudhunagar.<br>Rajapalayam.<br>Tiruchuli. |
| 2. Ramanathapuram.           | Ramanathapuram       | 1. Ramanathapuram.<br>2. Mudukulattur.                    | Kamudi.                                     |
| 3. Sivaganga .. ..           | Sivaganga ..         | 1. Sivaganga ..<br>2. Paramagudi.                         | Manamadurai.<br>Elayangudi.                 |
| 4. Devakottai .. ..          | Devakottai ..        | 1. Tirupattur ..<br>2. Tiruvadanai ..                     | Karaikkudi.<br>Devakottai.                  |

## TOPOGRAPHY.

Forests and hillocks, a number of tanks, fields and waste spaces, the red soil stretches of Chettinad, the sandy wastes of the sea coast and the sea are the natural heritages of the Ramanathapuram District. The tract in the District has four naturally distinct regions, namely, (1) the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in the Srivilliputtur Taluk ; (2) the plains of the Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Paramagudi taluks, and portions of Sivaganga, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks ; (3) the red soil region of the Tirupattur taluk and the northern portions of the Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai taluks, called Chettinad ; and (4) the sandy coastal area of Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks.

### THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE WESTERN GHATS IN THE SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUK.

The eastern slopes of the Western Ghats start from the northernmost point along the boundary between the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts and proceed southwards in an unbroken line as far as the *Deviar*, at about approximately an average elevation of 5,000 feet (1,500 metres approximately). In this range some of the chief peaks are the *Pemalai Mottai*, *Panjanthangi Mottai*, *Tirunateri Mottai*, *Vilakkummoni Mottai*, *Palavarangi Mottai* and the *Seithur* hill peak. All these peaks are more than 5,000 feet in height. The most magnificent of this mass of mountains is the *Pemalai Mottai* which is 5,875 feet (1,700 metres) above mean sea level. Although by no means highest of them, its barren peak situated in a

wide gap of the sky in s a magnificent sight when seen from the plains. Tea and Coffee estates have sprung up on the slopes of the Ghats, where spices are also grown. Teak is grown in the Ayyanarkoil forest and Seithur ex-estate forests. Miscellaneous fuel occurs, though the tract is inhospitable with boulders and rocks and the soil being very shallow. Thorny species like *Acacias* occur. The underwood although not clearly discernable consists of sapling and the overwood and shrubby growth of *Dichrosta hys Cinerea*, etc., grasses like *Andropogon* and *Cymbopogon Sp.* etc., are conspicuous till they are grazed or burnt.

2. THE PLAINS OF SATTUR, ARUPPUKOTTAI, PARAMAGUDI TALUKS AND PORTIONS OF SIVAGANGA, MUDUKULATIUR, RAMANATHAPURAM AND TIRUVADANAI TALUKS.

This stretch forms part of the erstwhile Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram Estates. The terrain here is practically plain except for small isolated hillocks here and there in the Sattur and Aruppukottai taluks which tend to break the monotony of the depressing landscape. An interesting feature of this area is the existence of a large number of tanks and it is so numerous that the District is called the "Lake District" of the State. There were as many as 5,016 tanks and the topography of the District is well suited for the construction of a large number of tanks. The general aspect of the plain is sloping towards east. The Western Ghats slope in the Srivilliputtur Taluk and form the source for a number of small rivers like the *Periyar*, *Chittar*, *Nanganathar*, *Athithondanar*, *Mudangiar*, *Manamakiar*, *Pirakudiyar*, *Nagariar* and *Deviar*. None of these are perennial, although water is seen almost throughout the year along their courses in stagnant pools until they come out of the forest boundary to the plains. They mostly feed the innumerable tanks along their water-course and subsequently join together to form the *Vaiyyar* river which flows through the Sattur Taluk in a southeasterly direction to the Tirunelveli District.

The plains are also drained by the *Vaigai* and a number of small rivers which are not perennial. The *Virisull* river arising from the Piranmalai forests, *Kretamala* or *Kritamanady*, *Kottakkariyar*, *Manimuttar*, *Pambar*, *Thenar* and *Vellar* are the few rivers of any importance. All these rivers feed the numerous tanks along their courses. Of these small rivers, *Kretamala* and the *Kottakkariyar* get dried up within the land itself while the *Virisull* river, *Manimuttar*, *Pambar*, *Thenar* and *Vellar* empty themselves into the sea after supplying several tanks along their courses.

The *Vaigai* which is by far the largest river in the District takes its origin in the Gandamanayakkanur hills of the Madurai District, enters the Ramanathapuram District on the north-western boundary of the Sivaganga Taluk near Tiruppuvanam, traverses through Sivaganga, Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram taluks in a southeasterly direction feeding about 374 tanks through its course and ultimately discharges itself into the sea near Attangarai.

The *Gundar* river which is the next in importance to the river *Vaigai* is formed by the junction of several streams rising in the Gandamanaickanur and Andipatti hills of the Madurai District and flows south-east, almost parallel to the *Vaigai*, running through the Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur taluks and discharges itself into the Gulf of Manar near Mukkaiyur. The soil of this great plain region is mostly black cotton soil or regar which is locally known as *Karisal*. This soil is mostly restricted to the cultivation of cotton and dry crops. The familiar landscape is of palms and *acacias*.

### 3. THE RED SOIL REGION OF THE TIRUPPATTUR TALUK AND THE NORTHERN PORTION OF SIVAGANGA AND TIRUVADANAI TALUKS.

With Kothamangalam in the Tiruppattur Taluk on the north east, the Bay of Bengal on the east, the river *Vaigai* in the Sivaganga Taluk on the south, and the Piranmalai in the Tiruppattur Taluk on the west, the whole range of the country is known as *Chettinad*. The area consists of vast stretches of barren land overgrown with *babul*. The country is studded with settlements of the Nagarathar community, otherwise known as Nattukottai Chettiars. A common feature in the region is the existence of a number of huge buildings built on high basements of laterite blocks known as "Sempurankal".

Though the soil is broadly red, it may be classified as *Sevval*, *Veppal* and *Pottal*. The red soils which are generally the result of decomposition *in situ* of the underlying ferruginous rock, vary considerably in character. Over hornblende and other forms of gneiss, the soil is of deep red colour with a high iron content. This soil locally known as *Sevval* tends to become swampy in the wet weather, and hard and backed during the hot weather. This type of soil is seen mostly in the Tiruppattur and Sivaganga taluks. This type of soil on account of prolonged exposure to the alternating effects of rain and desiccation secondarily leads to a lateritic formation on account of imbalance of the calcium sesquioxide ratio in the upper layers of the soil. Such lateritic crusts of varying depth are commonly seen in exposed patches in these two taluks.

The soil derived from the decomposition of the more siliceous variety of gneisses is of a reddish brown colour free from pebbles and stones. This soil locally known as *Veppal* is seen on the plains of Sakkottai, Palaiyur, A. Thekkur and Amaravathipudur which is ideally suited for planting cashew. In an effort to rehabilitate these barren lands, a number of cashew plantations have been raised in selected areas mostly under the Five-Year Plan Programmes.

In sites with granular quartz, the soil locally known as *Pottal* is very gritty and light brown in colour, narrow strata of quartz pebbles being found only 1 to 2 feet below the surface. The Vellamalai and Eriyur Malai are some of the typical examples of this type.

*Virisull* river, *Manimutta Nadi* and *Pambar* river run through the *Chettinad* area. All these run from north-west to south-easterly direction. *Manimutta Nadi* enters the District at the north-west border of the Tiruppattur Taluk from the Madurai District and joins with *Virisull* river, a few miles north-west of Siruvayal. The *Virisull* river enters the District from the Tiruchirapalli District at the northern boundary of the Tiruppattur Taluk and runs in a south-easterly direction. It also runs through the Tiruvadana Taluk to empty itself in the Palk Strait along with *Pambar* river. The *Vaigai* forms the southern boundary of the region. Along the river banks are to be found alluvial deposits, varying in depth and extent according to the frequency of floods. The soil known as *Vandal* is usually light red in colour and rather sandy. It has a high lime content. It is usually clothed with a good growth of semi-evergreen forest species.

#### 4. THE SANDY COASTAL AREAS OF MUDUKULATTUR, RAMANATHAPURAM AND TIRUVADANAI TALUKS.

The sea coast stretches from Sundara Pandia Patnam on the borders of the Thanjavur District in the Palk Bay to Kannirajapuram abutting on the Tirunelveli District in the Gulf of Manar, covering a distance of about 169 miles. The coast is fringed with sand dunes with swamps at their back. Along the sea coast, the underlying sand stone or coral rock disintegrates into a sandy soil or *Manal* which is more often sterile and bears thorny *Acacia* and *Palmyras*. Carnatic umbrella thorn forests is seen extensively all over the Ramanathapuram District coast and in the Rameswaram Island in both *patta* and Government lands, the growth on the latter, being however, restricted to two isolated patches near the Sayalgudi and Tondi coasts. *Odai* (*Acacia Planifrons*) with its umbrella shaped crown forms nearly ninety per cent of the crop dotted with palmyra (*Barassus flabellifer*) trees. Leeward side merges with cultivation where there is a slight admixture of clay. In some places herbs and creepers grow which help in binding the soil. On moisture patches along the coast, the *odai* gives way to *phoenix* species and *Pandanus Odoratissimus* as seen in the Rameswaram Island. The coastal forests serve as a valuable shelter belt against drifting sands which are severe along the Ramanathapuram coast and more particularly south of the Rameswaram Island. Their maintenance and extension are of extreme importance in preventing wind erosion in the coastal tracts.

Taking a voyage along the sea coast and moving along from Sundarapandia Patnam at the extreme north, the coastline tends towards south-west for about 40 miles. From thence it begins to turn towards east in a curve enclaving Palk Strait. The coastline goes round the Rameswaram Island and moves in a west-south westerly direction towards Kannirajapuram, the extreme fishing village of the District. The sea along the coast is surprisingly shallow.

The southern coast of the District is fronted by a chain of islets and shoals extending to a distance of from 3 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles off shore. Between this chain and the coast and protected from the heavy seas during the south-west monsoon by the islets and shoals is the shallow *Kilakkarai passage*.

The Rameswaram Island is the largest of the islets. It is a low sandy foot-shaped island separated from the main land by the Pamban Channel. It is at the extremity of the Adam's Bridge, extending east and west between Ceylon and the south-eastern coast of the peninsula at the entrance of the Palk Strait and forming the northern boundary of the Gulf of Manar. The eastern half of the Island which is mostly under the ownership of small land-lords is well wooded with groves of *Odai* and cocoanuts. Along the coast, however, is a narrow strip of bare sand about 13 miles (22 kilometres approximately) in length lying from south-east to north-west and in link with the Manar Island with which it is united by a bank of sand. This was once connected with the main land. In contrast to the eastern portion, the western half of the Island has been completely denuded in the past and is subjected to severe shifting of sand dunes during the months of May to September. Several magnificent coconut topes have been destroyed due to the onslaught of the moving sand. The irregular terrain of sand dunes combined with depressions lead to stagnation of much water in the form of lagoons for months together after the north-east monsoon's rains abate. Added to this is the incursion of sea water in several places rendering these areas hostile to any form of afforestation. The consequent erosion is pretty heavy and the Railway track between the Dhanushkodi Pier and the Rameswaram Road is now in an unhappy condition. Dhanushkodi is the worst sufferer due to erosion and a large part of the village site with numerous buildings are now under the sea swallowed by erosion. The Railway authorities have taken precautionary measures to prevent further erosion by driving palmyra piles along the coast.

Besides Rameswaram Island, there are 16 islands off the Ramathapuram District coast. Of these, the Kurusadi Island, Muyal Theevu and Nallathanni Theevu are more important. Other islands are not only small in size but are also of very little importance. The soil is sandy and barren with low bushes here and there. A Fisheries Research Station has been established on the Kurusadi Island. Coconut and other fuel trees flourish on the Muyal and Nallathanni islands. The depth outside this chain of islets and shoals are tolerably regular with overfalls in places, but a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathom shoal lies about 4 miles south-south-eastward of Mulli Theevu.

The general depths of Palk Bay are 6 to 7 fathoms but on its southern side, the 5 fathoms line is 4 to 5 miles from the coast with a number of shoals within it. Rocks awash lie about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles eastward of the north-eastern end of the Rameswaram Island and shoal water extends about one mile outside them. At Devils' point, a shoal

of 5 feet high is situated 7 miles east-north east from Pamban. Kanthe Thuki Reef and Kathu Vallimuni Reef are large patches of coral lying within 3 miles of Pamban port.

From the western end of the Rameswaram Island an extensive sand bank, known as Horse Shoe Bank on which the depths do not exceed 6 feet, extends in a south-westerly direction nearly as far as Pumurichan Island.

Pearl and chank fisheries and fishing are carried on, on an extensive scale on these coasts.

## HILLS.

*Western Ghats*:—Just as at Courtallam in the Tirunelveli District and in the forests and hills of Seithur, Rajapalayam and Srivilliputtur, there are all along the Western Ghats, from end to end, the same type of scenery, very similar types of vegetation and the same distribution of soil and formation of rocks. The moss-dried mountain slopes, fresh as a bridegroom, stand forth clothed in the rays of the rising and setting sun, offering attractions to the lover of art and nature. Thin streaks of water slide down the mountain sides adding to their beauty. Along the Rajapalayam side, the teak plantations rise like pillar columns. Mudangiar Bungalow marks the beginning of the Reserve forest in the Rajapalayam region. A road from this Bungalow leads to Ayyanar falls, the name being attributed to a shrine in the neighbourhood. It is impressive not because of its fall which is not high, but because of its loneliness. The water falls cutting through a cleft in the rock, pours into a pool of 4 to 5 feet deep. This forest affords ample spot for *shikar*.

Above an elevation of 3,250 feet (1,000 metres approximately) the Ghats of Srivilliputtur Range exhibit a number of patches of *sholas* varying in size from 100 acres to 350 acres (40 to 140 hectares approximately) which are surrounded by grass lands. These *sholas* are not either dense or luxuriant as the typical *sholas* of the Western Ghats owing to the facts that the Travancore High Ranges and the Upper Palanis keep off much of the rain which would otherwise fall on these hills. Consequently the locality is far less moist. Three tiers are generally distinguishable. The Overwood consists of principally *Acrocarous fraximifolius*, etc. The second storey consists of *Myristica sp.*, etc. The lowest tier consists of sapling growth of the above species. The undergrowth is dense, the principal species being *Pandanus Sp.* Picturesque maiden hair and bracken ferns and palms are also scattered all over the forest. On the widespread ridges above 5,000 feet, the forest is largely 30 to 40 feet high while on the sheltered slopes along the stream banks, the forest has an average height of 100 feet. A fair proportion of the *sholas* in the Seithur forests were assigned for cardamom cultivation. The slopes in Seithur forest are mostly steep and the extent of the *sholas* is limited.



Near Srivilliputtur in the recesses of the forest on the top of the mountain there is Alagarkoil. At the foot of the Alagarkoil there is a huge trough through which a perennial stream falls down from the hills. A flight of 242 steps leads up to the temple.

Tiruvannamalai is a hillock about 250 feet high at the foot of the Western Ghats, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Srivilliputtur. 200 steps lead to the top of the hillock where there is a temple dedicated to *Mahavishnu* in a standing posture facing east. The two temple towers of Srivilliputtur are visible from here. This hill temple is popular, as it has connections with the Andal temple at Srivilliputtur. The garland placed on the statue of Andal, is offered the next day morning to the deity at this temple.

*Hills on the Plains:*—There are scattered bits of hillocks on the plain which also claim attention. The Melavanariruppu, Piranpatti, Poolankurichimalai, Madagupatti, Eriyurmala, Vellamalai, Tiruttangal, Kunnakkudi, Araliparai, Pillayarpu, Tirukolakkudy and Malapatti are some of the more prominent ones.

The shape of Kunnakkudi in the Tiruppattur Taluk has the appearance of a peacock. On the top of the hillock, is a deity of Lord *Subramanya* facing north. At the bottom of the hillock, there is a cave temple.

*Tiruttangal:*—This hillock is dedicated to *Siva*, *Mahavishnu* and *Subramanya*. It is 2 miles from Sivakasi in the Sattur Taluk. Tradition has it that *Usha's* marriage was performed here.

*Piranmalai:*—It is about 15 miles from Tiruppattur and five miles from Mattiyur *alias* Chadurvedamangalam. It may be of interest here to mention the origin of the name of *Mattiyur*. When the Poet Kamban visited this village no one appreciated his poetic genius. So he called it *Mattiyur*, meaning the place of fools. On coming to know of this, some of the villagers begged his pardon and offered him gifts. Kamban re-christened the village as *Chadurvedamangalam*, meaning the seat of four *Vedas*. Piranmalai is about five miles from this place. The Chieftain King Vel Pari reigned over the region from this place. It is one of the spurs of the Eastern Ghats. Five temples are clustered together here, three of them at different levels. The top most is the cave temple wherein colossal figures of *Siva* and his Divine Consort have been cut. It is interesting to note that the tamarind tree in the precincts of the temple does not fold its leaves during night.

*Eriyur:*—This rock in the Tiruppattur Taluk is said to be a portion of the *Sanjeevi* rock brought down by *Hanuman*, this piece having fallen down during the transit. Medicinal herbs are found here in plenty. A temple dedicated to Lord *Subramanya* adorns the top of the hill.

*Araliparai:*—This is also in the Tiruppattur Taluk. There is a hill temple. *Manju verattu* (catching of bulls) is very popular here.

Pillayarpatty and Tirukalakkudy hil's are also famous for rock cut temple. They are also in the Tiruppattur Taluk.

Malampatty hill in the Aruppukkottai Taluk provides metal for roads. Quarrying is done for road metal. The other hillocks have no special attractions worthy of mention.

### THE SEA COAST.

The District has a very long sea coast extending to nearly 169 miles. Cactus, coconut groves and fishermen's huts abund along the coast. The coastal villages are mostly fishing villages. There are also ports and salt factories. Some places are associated with the epic *Ramayana*. There are many land marks like temple towers, mosques, church steeples and light houses.

Salt factories have been established at Tittandadanam, Vattanam, Morkkulam and Krishnapuram near Mariyur.

Tondi, Dhanushkodi, Pamban, and Kilakkarai are the main ports along the coast. Devipatnam and Rameswaram are sub-ports. There is a light house at Pamban. Tondi too has one but it is a lantern hung up on a mast.

Uppur, Devipatnam, Attangarai, Rameswaram, Dhanushkodi and Valinokkam are sanctified by association with Lord *Rama*. There are temples at Tittandadanam, Tiruppalaikkudi, Rameswaram, Dhanushkodi, Thangachchimattam, Pamban, Mantapam, Periyapatnam and Mariyur. At Pasipatnam, Tondi, Kilakkarai and Erwadi there are beautiful and elaborate mosques. Kilakkarai is the place where Syed Quadir known as *Sithakathi* has been buried. Saint Anthony's Church at Kilakkarai is also an ancient one, and was built in 1816. The Church at Muttupettai, a coastal village is also an ancient one and was built in 1703.

At Attangarai the *Vaigai* joins the sea. There is a temple and a *chatram* at this place. Mantapam is the terminus of the main land. Tondi is a very ancient port and has been immortalised in the Tamil classic *Purananuru*.

On the sea coast there are a number of fair sized fishing coastal villages like Nambuthalai, Pudumadam, Manakudi, Pania-kulam, Uchipuli, Tangachchimattam, Ramasamimadam, Periyapatnam, Mukkaiyur, etc.

### THE SEA AND AND THE ISLANDS.

*Palk Bay*:—Palk Bay of the Bay of Bengal is the continuation to the southward of the Palk Strait. It is bounded on the east by the northern coast of Ceylon, on the south by the Islands of Mannar and Rameswaram with their shoal connection known as *Adam's Bridge* and on the west by the coasts of the Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur districts.

The General depths of the bay are from 6 to 7 fathoms but on its southern side the 5 fathoms line is 4 to 5 miles from the coast with a number of shoals within it. So far as the Ramanathapuram District is concerned, only the western and a portion of the southern side of the Palk Bay are relevant.

*The Western side of Palk Bay:*—The coast is generally low and level. The following important places are situated on this coast :—

*Tondi:*—This is situated on the sea-coast of the Tiruvadanai Taluk of the District and is about 8 miles east of Tiruvadanai. It is now a port of some commercial importance with trade being carried on with native vessels. A light is exhibited at an elevation of 63 feet from a steel mast, 52 feet in height, standing close southward of the Tondi Custom House. Two white masonry beacons, 15 feet in height mark the limits of the Port. There is anchorage in depths of 3 fathoms mud, with the Tondi town at a distance of 4 miles. It is exposed to all except off-shore winds. Small vessels can anchor near the town in depths of from  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 fathoms stiff mud.

*Devipatnam:*—This port is situated mid-way between Tondi (22 miles to the north) and Pamban (25 miles to the south). To the north of the port there is a point called “Kana Mondel”, which extends about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles seawards. It is only beyond this point that loaded vessels can safely pass.

*Pasipatnam Mosque:*—The Pasipatnam Mosque is on the coast about 10 miles northward of Tondi.

*Off-shore Depths:*—Northward of Tondi, the 3 fathoms line is charted, generally speaking, about 4 miles from the coast, but south, eastward of Pasipatnam, about 5 miles northward of Tondi, it is fully 5 miles and in this locality less depths have been reported, viz.,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  fathoms at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 miles south-eastward of Pasipatnam Mosque, and 2 fathoms at  $5\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the Mosque.

#### SOUTHERN-SIDE OF THE PALK BAY IN THE RAANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

The Bay has the following land marks :—

*Adam's Bridge:*—Adam's Bridge is a narrow bridge of sand and rocks mostly dry, which connects Manar Island with Rameswaram Island, situated about  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles westward. It is mostly composed of shifting of sand banks, with intricate channels between them. The Adam's Bridge separates Ceylon from India.

*Kacha Theevu*<sup>1</sup>.—It lies about 9 miles southward of Delft island 10 miles from Rameswaram, north-eastwards.

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1. A detailed description of this and other islands off the sea coasts of the Ramanathapuram District is given in a separate section below.

**Rameswaram Island:**—Rameswaram Island lying between Adam's Bridge and a narrow tongue of land on the mainland about 16 miles west-northward is low and sandy and is covered with scrub and stunted bushes; it is well planted with coconut trees towards its north-western end where a broad peninsula extends in a north-easterly direction.

**Chattram:**—It is on the south-western coast about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles from Lands' End. The south-eastern point of the Island, is situated amongst a clump of palm trees about 75 feet high, which enables it to be easily identified from seaward; there is a small but conspicuous building situated on the extremity of Lands' End.

**Dhamushkodi:**—The port is situated at the south-east end of the Island of Rameswaram. It is also the terminus of the Southern Railway. There is a pier on the northern side of the Island in the Gulf of Manar for the use of steamers connecting this terminus with Talaimanar. Fresh water is plentiful.

**Rameswaram:**—The sub-port of Rameswaram is situated on the east of the Rameswaram Island. The Rameswaram temple situated in the town on the south-eastern side is conspicuous. The temple has a tower of 120 feet high, situated on rising ground on the northern part of the Island. A fresh water lake about 3 miles in circumference is situated southward of the temple. The sea is shallow and only sailing vessels enter this port. Very careful navigation is necessary owing to the existence of a reef called "Devil's Point" off the north-eastern corner of the island.

**Pamban Port.**—The port is situated on the western side of the Rameswaram Island. A Port Officer and a Superintendent of Customs are stationed here.

A light is exhibited at an elevation of 94 feet from a circular tower, 67 feet in height, situated on a sand hill on the north-western point of the Rameswaram Island. The light was converted from oil to acetylene in March 1923. The general system of storm signals is in use at Pamban.

**Kanthe Thuki Reef:**—This reef is situated about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cables westward of Pamban light-house. It is composed of partially drying coral patches. There is a boat channel between the reef and the coast which is used by pilots when boarding vessels during the north-east monsoons.

**Kathu Valimuni Reef:**—This is a drying reef consisting of large patches of coral with depths of several feet between which lies northward of and parallel with the coast for nearly 2 miles westward of omen point, a boat channel between it and the mainland.

*Off shore Dangers of the Rameswaram Island.*

Rocks awash lie about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles eastward of the north-eastern end of the Rameswaram Island and shoal water extends about a mile outside them. In this vicinity, the depths should not be shoaled to less than a depth of 5 fathoms. Devil's point or *Pishasu Munai* (பிசாசு முனையு) is situated 7 miles east-northeast from Pamban and 32 miles east of Ramanathapuram at Latitude  $9^{\circ} 19' 38.12''$  N. and Longitude  $79^{\circ} 21' 11.49''$  E. All boats and ships will have to avoid this shoal of 5' high by going away from the Point.

*Gulf of Manar*:—The Gulf of Manar is the portion of the Indian Ocean lying between the western coast of Ceylon and the eastern coast of the Madras State. Its northern limit is the chain of islets and rocks called Adam's Bridge which extends from the western extreme of the Manar Island at the north-eastern end of the Gulf for about 16 miles in a west-north-westerly direction to the Rameswaram Island (Latitude  $9^{\circ} 04'$  N. Longitude  $79^{\circ} 47'$  E.) and the Rameswaram Island which nearly joins the Indian coast. Its extreme width between Point-de-galle, the south-western point of Ceylon and Cape Comorin, the southern extreme of India, north-westward is about 204 miles.

The following places in the Gulf of Manar deserves special notice.

*Kundagal Point*—(Also known as Kuttikkal Point earlier):—It is a low sandy point with coconut plantations at a short distance inland. It extends northward and north-eastward and a beacon stands on the spot which extends about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables southward of Kundagal point. Tradition has it that *Hanuman* of the epic *Ramayana* sat on his calf muscles and leaped to Lanka in the fashion called "Kundugal" (கந்தகூதரால்) in Tamil. This point and the channel are named after this incident. The tidal stream sets through Kundugal channel in a westerly direction with the flood tide, and from thence westward along the northern edge of the reef on which are Pumurichan Theevu and Kurusadi Theevu, (Latitude  $9^{\circ} 15'$  N. Longitude  $79^{\circ} 13'$  E.) where it meets the flood tidal streams setting in a north-westerly direction through Puma channel. these streams then combine and set in a northerly direction, but they are weak unless influenced by strong southerly winds.

There is a large coral reef, the western extreme of which is situated about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles west-south-westward of Kundugal point. On it are Musal Theevu, the south eastern point of which is about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles, west-south-westward of Kundagal point, and Manalai (Mannali Islet) about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east-north-eastward of the south-eastern point of Musal Theevu. A white beacon 15 feet high stands on the reef about one cable eastward of Manali Theevu.

There is a coral reef, the western end of which is situated about 3 miles east-north eastward of Manali Theevu. The northern edge of this reef is clearly defined at low water, but its southern edge is much indented, and the sea breaks on it.

The Pumurichan Island (Pulli Island), the southern extreme of which is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east-north-eastward of Manali Theevu, lies on the western side of the coral reef described above and has on its south-western side a white beacon, 33 feet high; Pumurichan Theevu (Pullivasal Island) lies on the south-eastern side of this reef; Kurusadi Theevu (Kurusadi Island), the south-western extreme of which is situated about a few yards north-north-eastward of Pumurichan Theevu, has a fisheries Research Station and the ruins of a hospital situated near its eastern end. These three low islands are covered with scrubs and bushes.

*Kallaru reef*:—The western extreme of this reef is situated about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cables south-eastward of the eastern extreme of Kurusadi Theevu. It is of coral formation and has on it the Shingle Island and has bushes and shrubs on it. The sea breaks heavily on the south-western edge of the reef.

*Pamban Pass*:—Pamban pass is the navigable channel, partly artificial through the banks, which occupy the space between the western end of the Pamban Island and the mainland. It is well marked with beacons and is easy to navigate.

The maximum draught of vessels using the channel was in 1936, 9 feet. Now the channel has minimum depth of 14 feet. It is of great advantage to navigate coasting craft trading between the ports on the western coast of India and those in the Bay of Bengal.

A narrow tongue of land, named Toni Torai about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cables west-north-westward of the western extreme of Rameswaram Island projects eastward from the Ramanathapuram coast. The Toni Torai temple, now in ruins, stands about a cable distance within its eastern extremity and about the same distance farther westward is a conspicuous clump of cocoanut palms.

Between the western coast of the Rameswaram Island and the eastern extremity of Toni Torai, a rocky barrier extends in a nearly straight line; the Pamban Viaduct which carries the Southern Railway is built on this barrier.

About a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile westward of Pamban is a cutting 200 feet wide through the rocky barrier; a rolling lift-bridge is constructed over the channel to permit vessels to pass through.

On the western side of the Pass, the barrier is named the Great Dam, and consists of large masses of rock, having a flat surface, which were formerly portions of a causeway that extended from Rameswaram Island to the mainland. The northern face of the Dam is steep at low water and presents a wall like appearance, but the boulders are sufficiently separated to allow a free passage to the water at low tide. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables eastward of the eastern extremity of Toni Torai there is an opening in the rocks; it is, however, so small and has such a rush of water through it that even fishing canoes never attempt to pass through.

About half a cable southward of the Great Dam, and parallel to it is another rocky ridge, the South Dam, which partially dries and extends from the pass half-way to Toni Torai (Latitude  $9^{\circ}17'N$ . Longitude  $79^{\circ}11'E$ ).

The reef on which is Pumurichan Theevu and Kurusadi Theevu, forms a natural break water, protecting Pamban Pass and the channels leading to it from the swell of the south-west monsoon.

*Current* :—The current sets southward through the Pamban Pass during the north-east monsoon, and northward during the south-west monsoon ; a rate of 5 to 6 knots is frequently attained rendering it at times difficult for even steam vessels to proceed through.

*Horse Shoe Bank* :—From the western end of the Rameswaram Island an extensive sand bank, known as Horse Shoe Bank on which the depths do not exceed 6 feet, extends in a south-westerly direction nearly as far as the reef on which are Pumurichan Theevu and Kurusadi Theevu.

*Coasts* :—From Toni Torai, the coast trends in a west-south westerly direction for about 33 miles to Valinokam Point and is fronted by a chain of islets and shoals extending to distances of from 3 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles off shore ; between this chain and the coast and protected from the heavy seas during the south-west monsoon by the islets and shoals is the shallow Kilakkarai Passage.

*Kilakkarai* :—The Kilakkarai Port is situated in the Gulf of Mannar between the ports of Pamban and Tuticorin. About  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-westward of Kilakkarai there is a sunken rock lying about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south-south-eastward of it. This rock is marked by a beacon.

*Kilakkarai Channel* :—The Kilakkarai channel is about 2 miles wide starting from the Valinokkam Point, 13 miles south-west and running between the shore and the islands as far as Pamban a distance of 43 miles.

The channel can be used by small vessels with local knowledge only, there being many shoals with a depth of 6 feet and over and the channels between them being narrow and undefined ; it affords a smooth passage for small coasting vessels for half the distances between Pamban and Tuticorin.

*Vedelai Port* :—The Vedelai sub-port is located in the Gulf of Mannar, 6 miles west of Pamban.

*Valinokkam Point* :—A beacon-tower 20 feet in height, stands on the Valinokkam Point, and is a useful mark for vessels making the western entrance to the Kilakkarai channel.

Between the Valinokkam Point and Vembar about 18 miles west, south-westward, the coast is low, sandy and covered with palm trees.

Detached shallow flats, on some of which there are islands, lie at distances of about one to five miles off this part of the coast.

*Off-lying Islands* :—Musal Theevu is 8 miles south-westward of Toni Torai.

Westward of Musal Theevu are Muli Theevu about 5 miles west of Musal Theevu, Valai Theevu (Kittoriumen islet) about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles westward of Muli Theevu, Taliri Theevu (Taliari Island) about half a mile westward of Valai Theevu, Appa Theevu (Sheramudili Theevu) about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles westward of Taliri Theevu, Puvarasanhalli Theevu about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles eastward of south-western end of Appa Theevu, Balayamuni Theevu (Peliomalai Theevu) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile south-westward of Puvarasanhalli Theevu and Anaipar Theevu (Anipar Theevu islet) about 2 miles westward of Balayamuni Theevu ; these low-lying islands and islets should be given a wide berth, and large vessels should not sight any of them, with the exception of Anaipar Theevu and Manali Theevu, nor get into depths of less than 12 fathoms.

The depths outside this chain of islets and shoals are tolerably regular with overfalls in places, but a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathom shoal lies about 4 miles south, south-eastward of Muli Theevu.

Nalla-Thanni Theevu, an island of about 5 miles west-south-westward of the Valinokkam Point and about one mile offshore, Shuli (Chulli) Theevu, an islet about 2 miles westward of Nallathanni Theevu lie on the same shallow flat.

Upputhanni Theevu, an islet about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles west-south-westward of Shuli Theevu, lies about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles offshore.

#### *A Description of the Islands off sea Coast.*

There are 17 islands off the sea coast of the District. Twelve of these islands are off the sea-coast in the Ramanathapuram Taluk and the rest are off the sea-coast in the Mudukulattur Taluk. The islands off the sea coast of Ramanathapuram Taluk are—

- (i) Rameswaram Island.
- (ii) Shingle Island.
- (iii) Kurusadi Island.
- (iv) Pumurican Island.
- (v) Manali Island.
- (vi) Musal Theevu.
- (vii) Muli Theevu
- (viii) Vali Theevu.
- (ix) Talaiari Island.
- (x) Appa Theevu.
- (xi) Poovarasanhalli Theevu.
- (xii) Kacha Theevu.



The Islands off the sea-coast in the Mudukulattur Taluk are—

- (i) Balayamunai Theevu.
- (ii) Anaipar Theevu.
- (iii) Nallathanni Theevu.
- (iv) Shuli Theevu.
- (v) Upputhanni Theevu.

A description of their location and physical features are given in the following pages :—

*Rameswaram Island* :—Rameswaram Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk) lies between the Adam's Bridge and a narrow tongue of land called Toni Torai on the mainland. It is about 16 miles long, west-northward. It is low and sandy and is covered with scrub and stunted bushes. It is planted with coconut trees towards its north-western end where a broad peninsula extends in a north-easterly direction.

Rameswaram Island derives its name from the Rameswaram Temple situated in the town of that name on the south-eastern side of the Island. The temple has a tower of 120 feet high and it is very conspicuous, as it is situated on a rising ground on the northern part of the Island.

Rameswaram Island is divided into two survey villages, Pamban and Rameswaram. The latter includes the revenue village of Dhanushkodi. One peculiarity about the agricultural practice in this Island is that no plough is used in the Island for preparing the land. This is because of the belief that in a territory where Lord Rama walked no plough should be used. Cultivation is only by means of hoe. But the major area is covered by tamarind and *Odai* trees. The Islanders import their foodgrains from the mainland.

Rameswaram town, *Kothandaramaswami* temple, Dhanushkodi. Mukundaroyar Chatram, Kundugal temple, Pamban and Tangachchimadam are the important places on the coast-line of the Island.

*Shingle Island* :—Shingle Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk) is situated from Kurusadi Island about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, westwards. It is 4 miles south-east of Pamban and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles eastwards from Kundugal Channel Point, an abutting point in the Rameswaram Island situated at a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwards from Pamban.

Shingle Island has been surveyed as Survey Number 1210 with an extent of 25.80 acres. This Island has been transferred to the Fisheries Department.

This Island is popularly known as "Singala Theevu" since the Sinhalese when they came for fishing usually stayed there for months together. "Shingle Theevu" is a corruption of "Singala Theevu".

Kallaru reef, the western extreme of which is situated about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cables south-eastward of the eastern extreme of Kurusadi Island is of coral formation and has on it the Shingle Island. This Island was surveyed in 1879 as two islets. The two islets were then united (1920-27) on the north-west and south-west direction so as to form a single island with a lagoon in the middle completely cut off from the sea. The island is very low and has bushes and shrubs on it. The sea breaks heavily on the southwestern edge of the Island. A conspicuous triangular beacon of 40 feet high painted white and with a horizontal band stands on the eastern side of the Shingle Island. The Island is uninhabited.

*Kurusadi Island*:—Kurusadi Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk) is separated by sea from the Kundugal Point of the Rameswaram Island at a distance of 250 metres. This Island is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwards from Pamban. The population of the Island is about 44. A motor launch belonging to the Research Station of the Island is available at this station for hire with the prior permission of the Director of Fisheries, Madras. A small fishing boat is also available at this station for crossing the sea (250 metres) on payment of the hire charges.

Kurusadi Island has been surveyed as survey number 1209. Its extent is 127 acres and 30 cents.

It is said that in the past one small Saint Xavier's Church was constructed on the island and after that the biblical word "Crusade" was attributed to this island. The island came to be known as "Crusade" island. The word "Crusade" later got corrupted as "Kurusadai".

The island lies off the Island of Rameswaram in the Gulf of Manar at Latitude  $9^{\circ}14'$  N. and Longitude  $79^{\circ}13'$  E. There are about 578 coconut trees on this Island. The Island was acquired by the Government for establishing a Pearl Oyster Farm and a Subsidiary Marine Biological Station in January, 1915 for Rs. 4,882.

There are two beacons at Kurusadi. The beacon No. 1 is on the northern edge of the reef and is 17 feet high above sea level and is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cables north-westward of No. 2 beacon. The No. 2 beacon, 27 feet high, is situated in the centre of the Kurusadi Island about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cables from its eastern extreme.

In the eastern part of the Island is located the Marine Biological Station with staff quarters. A fresh water well has been dug out in the centre of the Island and is now used for drinking purposes.

*Pumurichan Island* (Pallivasal Island and Pulli Island):—Pumurichan Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk-population Nil) lies about 25 miles east-south-east of Ramanathapuram and 4 miles south-west of Pamban, at Latitude  $9^{\circ}15' 30.5''$  N. and Longitude  $79^{\circ} 18.16''$  E. The Island is 29 feet above sea level.

*Pumurichan* is the name of a fisherman and the island is called after his name. It consists of two islets separated by a small channel called "Pumurichanaru", the western islet being very small. The larger island on the eastern side is called "Pallivasal Island" or "Pumurichan Pallivasal Island" and the smaller one on the western side as "Pulli Island" or "Pumurichan Pulli Island" only few yards of shallow water disconnects Pumurichan Island from Kurusadi island. The local fisher folk call Pumurichan Pallivasal Island as Peria Theevu being the largest among the four islands, viz., Shingle, Kurusadi, Pallivasal and Pulli islands. The origin of the name *Pallivasal* is traced to the fact that there was a Muslim Mosque (பள்ளிவாசல்) in this Island.

Pumurichan Island (Pallivasal and Pulli Islands) is a part of the coral reef extending from Rameswaram to Tuticorin. It is uninhabited and is full with jungle shrubs and trees. On its south-western side there is a white beacon 33 feet high. The reef on which is situated the Pumurichan and Kurusadi Islands forms a natural breakwater protecting Pamban Pass and the channels leading to it from the swell of the south-west monsoon.

In the Settlement records, Pumurichan Theevu has been surveyed as three Islands. Pumurichan Pallivasal Theevu is named as Periakanda Theevu in the settlement records (on account of its largeness) with survey number 1208 and an extent of 112 acres and 10 cents. Pumurichan Pulli Island is surveyed as two islands as shown below in the settlement records.

| Name.                     | Survey number. | Extent. |        |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
|                           |                | Acres.  | Cents. |
| (1)                       | (2)            | (3)     | (4)    |
| Nadu Theevu .. .. .       | 1,207          | 7       | 58     |
| Pumurichan Theevu .. .. . | 1,208          | 51      | 60     |

Shingle Island, Kurusadi Island and Pumurichan Island have been included in the Pamban revenue group.

*Manali Island* :—Manali Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk) lies 4 miles south of the Mantapam Camp.

Manalai fish abounds largely around this Island. The coral stone deposits all around the shores of the island and the irregular shoals along the coast have influenced fishermen to fish by means of a special procedure by planting rectangular bamboo hedges in the sea. This method of fishing is called as *Kalanghatti* fishing (கலங்கட்டி மீன் பிடித்தல்).

Only shrubs and low jungle abound in this Island. A landmark of 15 feet high is planted on the south-east corner of the Island.

An entrepreneur of Rajapalayam has been granted a mining lease in 1959 for lime stone and kankar over a period of 20 years over an extent of 120 acres in the Island. The Island is uninhabited.

Manali Island is included in Mantapam revenue group. It has been divided into four survey groups as shown below :—

| Name of Island.           | Survey Number. | Classification.       | Extent. |        |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
|                           |                |                       | Acres.  | Cents. |
| (1)                       | (2)            | (3)                   | (4)     | (5)    |
| Manali Island .. ..       | 970            | Government Poramboke. | 38      | 50     |
| Do. .. ..                 | 971            | Do.                   | 1       | 40     |
| Do. .. ..                 | 972            | Do.                   | 1       | 88     |
| Manali Tuttu Island .. .. | 973            | Do.                   | 4       | 90     |

**Musal Theevu:**—Musal Theevu (Ramanathapuram Taluk) lies  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Mandapam Camp. From Ramanathapuram, it is 19 miles south-east and from Pamban it is 12 miles south-west. The Island is at Latitude  $9^{\circ}12' 26.61''$  N. and Longitude  $79^{\circ}06' 4/90''$  E. Its population is about 35.

' Musal Theevu ' means ' Hare ' Island. Plenty of hare is found on this Island, even to-day.

The entire Island is on lease to a private person. He has planted trees of all sorts including coconuts, and palmyras. He also rears sheep and cattle on this Island. A Trigonometrical Station is situated at the northern point of the island.

**Muli Theevu :**—Muli Theevu (Ramanathapuram Taluk) lies 18 miles south-west of Pamban and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Pudumadam. It is situated between Valai Theevu and Musal Theevu at a distance of 6 miles west of Musal Theevu. It is a barren island. Hence it is called Muli Island. It is uninhabited.

There is a formation of a belt of lime and kankar stones around this island. In 1959 an entrepreneur of Rajapalayam was granted a mining lease for limestone and kankar for a period of 20 years over an extent of 30 acres on this Island. The Industrial Chemicals, Limited, Talaiyuthu, Tirunelveli District has also been granted mining lease for a period of 5 years over an extent of 161 acres of 25 sq. miles on this Island within a distance of 6 furlongs from the fringe at low tide. Muli Theevu consists of jungle shrubs. There is an iron flag staff of about 30 feet height on a cement base on the northern shore of the island. Muli Island has been surveyed as two survey numbers 140 & 141 with extents of 38.80 and 2.68 acres. The extent of 2.68 acres in survey No. 141 has been eroded by the sea.

*Valai Theevu* :—Valai Theevu (Ramanathapuram Taluk) lies 7 miles south-west of Pudumadam and 20 miles from Pamban in the same direction. From Ramanathapuram it is 15 miles south-south-east. It is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Muli Theevu.

The name of the island is derived from *Valay* in Tamil, a fish so called, *Wallagoattu*. This kind of fish is largely available in this island. There is also a tradition that *Vali* of *Ramayana* came to this island and hence it was named after him.

The island is also called Kittoriammen Island because there is a Kittoriamman Catholic Church. The fishermen of Periyapatnam, a coastal village on the mainland, 5 miles north of this island, who came here for fishing, pray at this place during their halt in this island. An entrepreneur of Rajapalayam has been granted a mining lease for limestone and kankar for a period of 20 years over an extent of 50 acres in this Island. The Industrial Chemicals Limited, Talaiyuthu, Tirunelveli District has also been granted a mining lease for coral limestone for a period of 5 years over an extent of 0.36 sq. miles in the adjacent Talaiari Island and this Island. The extent has not been separated between these two islands as Talaiari Island is more or less a continuation of Valai Island. The Island consists of mostly jungle shrubs and is uninhabited. The Island is at a height of about 10 feet from the sea level. The Trigonometrical Station in this island is at Latitude  $9^{\circ}11' 11.63''$  and Longitude  $78^{\circ}59' 07.01''$ .

*Talaiari Island* :—Talaiari Island (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population—Nil) lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile west to Valai Theevu, 9 miles south-west of Pudumadam and 10 miles south-east of Kilakkarai.

As this is the end of the long stretch of coral reef on which are the two islets Valai Theevu and Talaiari Theevu, this portion is called Talaiari meaning “end”.

A small channel separates Valai Theevu and Talaiari Theevu which dries up during low tide presenting the appearance of a single island. This island is similar to Valai Theevu in all respects. There is no habitation but fishermen and labourers who are mostly Muslims from the mainland stay here temporarily till Friday of every week, for collecting coral stones, chanks and fish. They return to mainland on Friday. Salt pans exist in this Island. An entrepreneur of Rajapalayam has been granted a mining lease for limestone and kankar for a period of 20 years over an extent of 100 acres, and the Industrial Chemicals, Limited, Talaiyuthu, Tirunelveli District has also been granted mining lease for coral limestone for a period of 5 years in this Island.

Talaiari Island and Valai Island have been surveyed as survey number 139 and their total extent has been estimated as 289.96 acres

**Appa Theevu:**—Appa Theevu (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population—Nil) lies 5 miles south-east of Kilakkarai and 5 miles west of Talaiari Theevu. It is 13 miles south of Ramanathapuram situated at the Trigonometrical Station at Latitude  $9^{\circ}09' 52.86''$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 52' 14.02''$  E. The Island is about 12 feet high from the sea level.

The name of the Island is derived from the plant that grows in this Island called “*Appam*” in Tamil which is *Cissampelos Pareira* Linn. There is also another version that because of the Mosque of Sheramudilli Appa in this island, it derived the name as Appa Island. For the same reason it is also called as *Sheramudili Island*.

The Island is barren with jungle shrubs and no habitation. Coral stones are available at this station and an entrepreneur of Rajapalayam has been granted a mining lease for limestone and kankar for a period of 20 years over an extent of 100 acres.

**Poovarasanhalli Theevu :**—Poovarasanhalli Theevu (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population—Nil) lies  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Kilakkarai and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of south-west end of Appa Theevu. It is the tiniest of all the islands off the Ramanathapuram district coast.

The Island is so named on account of the *Poovarasu* trees and the shrubs on it. It is a barren and uninhabited island with low shrub jungle.

**Kacha Theevu :**—Kacha Theevu lies 10 miles north-east wards of Rameswaram. The Raja of Ramanathapuram was leasing this Island to private persons before the abolition of the zamindari. Fishermen frequent this Island for fishing. The Island is so named because of the *kacha* (dirty) water in it. The survey number of Kacha Theevu is 1250 and its extent is 285.20 acres. There is a Roman Catholic Church on it and the Father of Tangachchimattam pays a visit and conducts a mass in the church. This Island lies within the jurisdiction of the Karnam of Rameswaram.

The Appa Theevu and Poovarasanhalli Theevu described above and the Pillayarmunai Theevu and Anaipar Theevu described below belong to Kilakkarai Revenue group of Ramanathapuram Taluk.

**Balayamunai Theevu:**—Pillayarmunai Theevu also known as Balayamunai Theevu lies  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west-south-west of Poovarasanhalli Theevu. This Island is named after the Point (in Tamil Munai) on the mainland opposite to the Island.

**Anaipar Theevu.**—This is situated 2 miles west of the Pillayarmunai Theevu. The name is attributed to the rocks on the Island. The survey numbers, extent and classifications of the islands in the Kilakkarai Revenue group are as below :

| Name.                  |    |    | Survey number. | Classification.      | Extent. |        |
|------------------------|----|----|----------------|----------------------|---------|--------|
|                        |    |    |                |                      | Acres.  | Cents. |
| (1)                    |    |    | (2)            | (3)                  | (4)     | (5)    |
| Appa Island            | .. | .. | 329            | Government Poramboke | 91      | 30     |
| Poovarasanhalli Island | .. | .. | 328            | Do.                  | 8       | 20     |
| Pillayarmunai Island   | .. | .. | 326            | Do.                  | 30      | 04     |
| Anaipar Island         | .. | .. | 327            | Do.                  | 33      | 60     |

In all the four islands there is no habitation and they are barren with scrub jungle and low bushes here and there. They are not only small in size but are also of very little importance.

**Nallathanni Theevu.**—It is so named because fresh water is found within a depth of 3 to 5 feet. It is situated five miles west-south-west of Valinokkam. It is about 2 miles in length and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth. The soil is sandy. The Island is planted with casuarina and coconut trees. There is no habitation except 2 huts belonging to the watchman. Cattle also is reared there. Fishermen from the mainland go to this Island for fishing.

**Shuli Theevu :**—It is situated 2 miles west of Nallathanni Theevu and 3 miles south of Mariyur. It is an Island of little importance being barren. The name is attributed on account of its smallness in size.

**Upputhanni Theevu :**—It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west-south-west of Shuli Theevu and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Mookaiyur. It is surveyed as survey number 308 with an extent of 23 acres and 60 cents. It is classified as Government Poramboke. The soil is sandy. The name of the Island is derived from 'Uppu' in Tamil meaning salt and 'Tanni' meaning water. Only saltish water is struck in the island. There is no habitation or cultivation. Fishing is done around the island.

**Erosion of land by the sea :**—Erosion of land by the sea has been, noticed in a demonstrative form at Dhanushkodi and Valinokkam<sup>1</sup>.

## RIVERS.

The *Vaigai* river is the chief river of the District. It enters the District in the Sivaganga Taluk near Tirupuvanam on the north-west and flows in a south-easterly direction across Sivaganga, Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram taluks and empties itself into the Ramanathapuram tank, the surplus of which flows into the sea near Attangarai. The *Vaigai* river has its source in the

1. For details see the notes on these places in Chapter XIX—'Places of Interest', especially those on Dhanushkodi.

Western Ghats on the eastern slope at an altitude of 5,000 feet above mean sea level and in a valley next to Vairavanar valley into which the waters of the Periyar lake flow through the foreshore tunnel. After traversing about 40 miles in thick forest and carrying in its wake tributaries such as *Palar*, *Koraliar*, etc. it enters the plains. A dam across the river was constructed in the year 1959,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Andipatty Railway Station on the Madurai-Bodinaickanur Railway line. The site is about 40 miles west of Madurai. Below the dam site, the *Vaigai* river runs about 20 miles before the Peranai Regulator across the *Vaigai* is reached. Below the regulator, the *Vaigai* river irrigates about 1,14,000 acres through numerous tanks served by inundation channels taking off from the *Vaigai*. From Peranai it runs a distance of 89 miles before reaching Ramanathapuram big tank. The river finally empties into the Ramanathapuram Tank and the Palk Bay. There are about 96 channels taking off from the *Vagai* in the Ramanathapuram district which feed about 374 tanks serving an aggregate ayacut of 1,08,562 acres in the Sivaganga, Paramagudi, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks. The area in the Sivaganga Taluk is served by the existing *Shields' Kals* and, *Lessees' Kals*. Improvements to *Vaigai* Reservoir assured supply of water to an additional 7,000 acres in the Sivaganga Taluk. In times of need, the water from the *Vaigai* dam is released into the *Vaigai* river and is supplied to the tanks in the Ramanathapuram District.

*The Arjuna Nadi and Sevelperi rivers*:—They flow across the Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks and join the *Vaiyyar* in the latter Taluk and enter the Tirunelveli District, 14 miles east of Sattur.

*The Gunda River*:—It is formed by the junction of several streams rising in the eastern slopes of the Varasanad and Andipatty ranges above Watrap, Uttappanayakanur and Doddappanayakanoor. The united streams flow south-east almost parallel to the *Vaigai*. Entering at Vyampatty in the Aruppukkottai taluk it takes a winding easterly course of about a mile and thence turns almost south, five miles, passing by Thoppoor and Perinjaly where it receives the *Sheverkottai* stream flowing from the mountains in the Tirunelveli District. It widens considerably at the confluence and flows south-easterly between Tiruchuli and Pallimadam washing the western wall of the ruined fort of Iluppoor. From Iluppoor, it winds eastwardly for 6 miles and passes by Mandalamanikkam and flowing south-easterly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, turns due south to Kamudi, running between the fort and the town. On the east of the town the river is obstructed by a large and massive dam and the course of the river was diverted towards the east by Ragunatha Sethupathi. The river assumes the name of *Ragunatha Cauvery* from Kamudi and finally empties itself in the Kalary Lake. The natural source of the *Gundar* continues from Kamudi towards the south-east for 22 miles and the river empties its surplus water into the Gulf



of Mannar near Mukkaiyur. The total length of the river is about 95 miles. The river is narrow and rapid with its mouth wide and shallow. The *Ragunatha Cauvery* feeds a chain of 65 tanks in the Mudukulattur Taluk.

*Krithamal River* :—It has its course from the *Vaigai* near Madurai and passing through the Sivaganga taluk enters the Mudukulattur taluk near Veerasholam and runs south for about 11 miles from this place and receiving a small rivulet called *Paraliyar* and discharges itself into the *Ragunatha Cauvery* near Peraiyur in the Mudukulattur taluk. An anicut has been constructed at a cost of 1.11 lakhs at about 4 miles north of Abiramam in the Mudukulattur taluk to feed the Abiramam tank.

*The Kottakkaraiyar* :—This is a wide and rapid stream formed by the junction of two rivulets. Running along near Kockooranny it flows into Rajasingamangalam Tank.

*The Virusull River* :—A narrow and rapid stream rises in the high lands near Piranmalai (Tiruppattur taluk) and after receiving several rivulets on its way flows north-easterly towards Devakottai in the Tiruvadanai Taluk, where it separates into two branches, which uniting about a mile to the east, run north of the old and ruined fort of Hanumanthagudi and south of the village. It again separates into two branches. The northern branch runs easterly 3 miles and thence separates into 2 streams taking a easterly-south course of 10 miles and falls into the *Pambar* below Adavathoor. The lower branch is known as *Pasiyar* from the village of Pasipatnam situated on the coast near the junction of this channel with the sea. The southern branch pursues a south-easterly course of about 17 miles from Hanumanthagudi and Adavathoor; it supplies several tanks and crossing the high road to Ramanathapuram discharges itself into the sea.

*The Manimuthar* :—It is a rivulet issuing from a lake in the Tiruppattur Taluk and entering the Tiruvadanai Taluk pursues a south-easterly course of 8 miles before falling into the lake at Tiruvadanai from whence the surplus waters flow over the Southern Calingula and looses themselves in other lakes towards the east. The superfluous waters of these, still form a pretty wide stream near Talimmarungoor and running in an open place crossing the high road to Ramanathapuram, joins the sea to the south of Tondi.

*Pambar, Thenar and Vellar* :—These are small rivulets. After feeding many tanks in the Tiruvadanai Taluk, they empty themselves into the sea.

*The Mudangiar and the Uppodai* :—The Mudangiar is a drainage channel in the Srivilliputtur Taluk. The Uppodai is a drainage channel in the Sattur Taluk.

*The Vijayanadhi and the Mannarkottai Nadi* :—These are the two affluents of the Arjuna Nadi in the Sattur Taluk.

*The Kanai odai* :—This is a drainage channel in the Aruppukkottai Taluk.

*The Saruganiar* :—This drains some of the *Periyar*-fed areas of the Madurai District and flows on the north of the Sivaganga Taluk and thence across the Tiruvadanai Taluk feeding several tanks along its course.

*The Uppar River* :—This takes its source in the eastern boundary of the Madurai District and joins the Vaigai near Manamadurai in the Sivaganga Taluk.

*Lakes and Tanks* :—The District has a very large number of tanks. According to the figures in the *Season and crop Report* for the year 1960—'61, there are 3,824 irrigation tanks in the District, of which 1,768 tanks are with ayacuts of 100 acres or more. The District may well be described as the "Lake District" of the State. A detailed account of the tanks in the District is given in the section on Tanks in *Chapter IV—Agriculture and Irrigation*.

## GEOLOGY.

In 1880, Bruce Foote, a noted British Geologist of the Geological Survey of India traversed through this region on a horse back, across the present Tiruppattur, Sivaganga and Aruppukkottai taluks and had given a brief, but most interesting account in his memoir, "*On the Geology of the Madura and Tinnevely Districts*" (Memoir 12 of the Geological Survey of India). However, a systematic geological mapping of the Ramanathapuram District was taken up by the Geological Survey of India only in 1948.

The Ramanathapuram District sprawls across a distance of about 125 miles from the high slopes of the Western Ghats in the west to the Rameswaram Island and the Palk Strait in the east. The western taluks of the District, viz., the Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Aruppukkottai taluks and large portions of the Tiruppattur and Sivaganga taluks comprise of ancient crystalline rocks (Archaeans) which are among the oldest formations in the world. The original rocks seem to have been subjected to high temperature, pressure, and compressional forces at great depths within the earth's crust which have completely metamorphosed and thrown them into complex folded structures. Crystalline limestones and graphite are among the valuable minerals found in these rocks.

The eastern portions of the Ramanathapuram District consists of rocks which were formed in beds of shallow lakes and coastal back waters (lagoons) where the silt, mud and sand brought in by rivers from the west were deposited. A line drawn from Chettinad in the north-east through Sivaganga to Tiruchuli and

beyond in the south-west, roughly demarcates the boundary between these and the archæan rocks in the west. The sedimentary rocks extend into the whole of Tiruvadanai, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur taluks and portions of the Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks. These sediments consisting mostly of clays (shales) and sandstones were deposited probably continuously for several millions of years from what is geologically known as the Gondwana age to the present day. They contain some useful types of clays and lime-stones and the possibility of the occurrence of coal in them cannot be ruled out.

*Geology*—The geological formations, met with in the District are as follows :—

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Recent and Sub-recent .. .. . | Alluvium, black soils, laterites and lateritic soil.   |
| Tertiary .. .. .              | Soft grits, coarse arkosio sandstone clays and conglomerates.  |
| Upper Middle-Jurassic .. .. . | Yellow, red and brown shales.  |
| Archæan .. .. .               | Younger granitic intrusives, pegmatites etc., Charnockites and associated hybrid types. Composite-gneiss, pine and grey granitic gneiss, mica and hornblende gneiss, garnet-sillimanite gneiss hornblende-schists, biotite-schists, etc. Crystalline limestone, calciphyres and calc-granulites, quartzites. |
|                               | Basic metamorphic rocks—amphibolites, epidiorites pyroxene schists, etc.   |

*Archæans* :—Archæan rocks are found in the north-western portion of Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks, in the north-eastern corner of topo-sheet 58 K/6 (parts of the Paramagudi, Sivaganga and Aruppukkottai taluks), small patches in the eastern and central parts of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks etc. Basic metamorphic rocks such as biotite schists, amphibolites, pyroxene granulites and epidiorites are found in small patches among the gneisses in parts of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. These rocks are usually found as numerous thin intercalations and conform to the gneissic rocks in their strike and dip. They are dark in colour, generally coarse grained and mostly weathered. Often the rocks are much contorted and sheared and show signs of partial assimilation by the granitic and gneissic rocks. Bands of dark green calc-pyroxene granulite are well exposed in the stream sections south of Pusaripatti near Suppalapuram and Vettilaiyurani. They follow the strike of the gneisses which is ENE.-WSW. Dark coarse epidiorites are also seen east and north of Elayirampannai, south of Pusaripatti and west of Tiruttangal.

Quartzites are commonly found at residual hills and high grounds. The Sappaniparam hill and the Valaikulamparambu hill, about 4.8 km. north-west of Rajapalayam, are traversed by three or four quartzite bands found intercalated with garnetiferous and sillimanite

gneisses. About 14.4 km. north-west of Sivaganga, there is a prominent quartzite ridge cutting across the Melur road and forming the Madurai—Ramanathapuram district boundary. Quartzites also occur in the north-western corner of Tiruppattur Taluk. The strike of the quartzites varies between East—West and E.N.E.—W.S.W. having  $60^\circ$  dip towards south. Bands of quartzite are also noticed east of Virappatti, between Alavakottai and Madagupathi in the area covered by the north-western Corner of the topo-sheet 58K/9. The quartzites are generally massive, resembling vein-quartz. However, at many places they are schistose and carry magnetite. The quartzites which are much sheared and crushed appear to have been intruded by vein quartz. Quartzites are very widely distributed and are found at several places. Many irregular bands and lenticular outcrops of crystalline limestone, calc-granulite, calc-gneisses and other calcareous rocks are found amongst the gneisses. But only a few of these are of importance. Bands of fairly good quality limestone are found near Alangulam, Kallamanaikkanpatti, Solapuram, Puvandi-Tiruvadur road, Sivaganga road, Pappapatti near Purandi, etc. Thin bands of calc-gneisses are quite common and they occur interbedded with the quartzites and the gneissic rocks. Large outcrops of calc-gneisses are found between Tiruppattur and Kunnakkudi, near the village of Atikaram Kilamatam and Tenkarai. Bands of crystalline limestone are seen to the south and south-west of Pandalkudi, to the north and east of Palavanatham village on the Virudhunagar—Aruppukkottai road and to the north and west of Vachchakkarapatti. Usually the limestone contains coarse, spathose crystals of calcite with medium grained green cocolite. But fine grained saccharoidal limestone and marble are also met with. The limestone varies in composition from band to band depending upon the amount of ferromagnesian mineral present. Carbonaceous limestones and marbles occur near Pandalkudi. Gneissic rocks containing small crystals of calcite with a large amount of ferromagnesian minerals are of common occurrence in the neighbourhood of the crystalline limestone. A group of granitic gneisses, hornblende-gneisses and garnetiferous micagneisses is most predominant among the Archaean rocks. The gneisses are extremely coarse grained and highly felspathic. They are sometimes well foliated and banded, especially when they carry a good amount of biotite, garnet or sillimanite. Other varieties are granular and show only faint traces of banding or foliation. The strike of foliation of gneisses varies from E-W to NNE-SSW. and the rocks dip at angles of  $50^\circ$  to  $60^\circ$ . Large exposures of hornblende-gneisses are seen between Kunnakkudi and Kummangudi on either side of the Tiruppattur-Karaikkudi Road. Granitic gneisses are recorded south of Malappatti, north of Aranipatti, near Marudippatti, between Pulangurichchi and Tuvai. Large outcrops of hornblende and biotite gneisses are seen at Athinipatti and around Tidamali in the area covered by the north-eastern portion of sheet 58K/5. Coarse felspathic

gneisses are found in small knolls south east of Kasavappatti near Kondagai. Near Elayirampannai and Sevvalpatti the usual strike is ENE-WSW with steep southward dips ranging from  $60^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$ . The gneisses are mostly covered with thick soils and are exposed only along stream courses but large outcrops also occur as hills and knolls. Gneisses are widely distributed in parts of Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Sivaganga and Tirupattur taluks.

In the region west of Rajapalayam and around Sattur, charnockite forms the predominant rock type. The rocks have roughly east to west trend and an almost vertical dip. In some places the texture is very coarse and large crystals of felspar and hypersthene are intergrown together. The small hills and knolls south-east of Panaiyadipatti consist of coarse charnockitic rocks having ENE-WSW trend. Charnockites are also exposed at the southern flank of Kuganparai hill, along the car tract east of Manjalodaipatti, south of Tottenhampuram, northern flank of the 634 hill, and eastern flank of the Kottankulamparambu hill. Charnockites are also found at a few places in the Tirupattur taluk. Many thin veins of pegmatite occur in the eastern portion of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. They run mostly along the foliation planes of the gneisses. Some pegmatites 4.5 to 6 metres in width are seen traversing the gneisses exposed in the stream sections between Manjalodaipatti and Elayirampannai. Some of the pegmatites at Tidamalai and Kusavapatti carry coarse crystals of allanite. Large bands of pegmatites and tourmaline bearing granites are of frequent occurrence around Pudur and Ulagampatti and west of Maniyakarampatti. Granites and pegmatites are common near Piranmalai to the east and south of Varappur.

*Upper-Middle Jurassic* :—Well sections around Kovilur reveal red, yellow and purple shales at depths of 4.5 to 6 metres below ground level. Similar shales are also seen in wells at Managiri and Talakkavur. The shales are fine grained, fissile, bedded and horizontal but at a few places they are also gritty and carry a few pebbles of quartz. A few gritty shales have been observed in a stream section east of Kuttalur and well sections at Naga-vayal. It appears almost certain that these shales are northern extension of the Gondwana formations met with near Sivaganga, Kallal and Siruvayal. A small patch of yellow, pink and purple shales overlie the gneisses just north of Nattapurakki village. The debris from a well about 0.8 km. north of Pikkulam on the eastern bank of the Vaigai consist of yellow and purple shales which are fine, compact and fissile. The Gondwana formations extend over an area of about 259 sq. km. in area covered by topo-sheet 58k/5 and K/9, and they probably extend to considerable distances into the adjacent areas in the north and south. The base of the Gondwana formations is occupied by extremely coarse conglomerates. The best exposure of the boulder bed is seen on the high ground 4 km. east of Sivaganga. Other localities where the boulder bed crops out are 0.2 km. north

of Manakkulam, between Uttikulam and Puvali along the Sivaganga-Paramagudi road 1.6 km. east of Vandavasi, about 1.5 km. south and S.S. of Manakkulam and on the eastern side of Sembanur. A compact, micaceous sandstone overlies the basal boulder bed at a few places. The most widespread members of the Gondwana formations are the alternating shales and grits which rest above the boulder bed and the sandstones. The shales and grits occupy a large area in the eastern portion of the Sivaganga Taluk. Shales and grits are also recorded around Mutluppatti and Madalampatti, north and north-east of Nattarasankottai to Kandipatti, around Arasanipatti and Illupaikkudi. around Kusavan Udaippu, about 4.8 km., south-east of Sivaganga, in the neighbourhood 1.6 km. south east of Uruli, around Vitteneripudukkudi, etc.

*Tertiary*:—The shales at Kovilur and Managiri are covered by coarse, soft, gritty sandstones and occasionally conglomerates which grade into laterite above. The sandstones are deep brownish red, brown or buff in colour and are exposed at a few places where the laterites have been removed. Stream sections north of Kuttalur and near Kovilur show gritty sandstones which have been laterites on the top. It appears probable that they may be correlated with the Cuddalore sandstone of Tertiary age. In Chettiand area, that is near Pallattur, Kanadukkattan, Kottamangalam and also in area covered by the topo-sheet 58 J/16 similar gritty sandstones are revealed here and there under the laterite cover. About 0.8 km. west of Kiramgulam and 0.2 km. west of Nattarasankottai R.S., a nala section reveals a soft, coarse grit under the laterite cover and above the Gondwana shales. Tertiary grits, sandstones and conglomerates are also recorded from parts of the Sivaganga, Paramagudi and Aruppukkottai taluks.

*Recent and Sub-Recent*:—The Archaeans and the Gondwana formations are overlain by the laterites which vary in thickness from 0.9 m. to 10.5 m. Proceeding eastwards from Sivaganga an increase in the thickness of the laterite cover is noticed. The laterites are well developed around Mangalam, and north of Kalaiyarkovil they are over 9 metres thick. The area west of the *Kretanala* nadi is completely covered by thick laterite or red soils derived from the laterites. The soft grits and conglomerates seem to have been readily susceptible to lateritization as evident from the thickness of the laterites here. The laterite extends to depths ranging from 3 to 6 metres below ground level. A small patch of fine red lateritic soil occurs in the high ground about 3.2 km. north of Maraneri and extends up to the Srivilliputtur—Sivakasi Road. Red soils are also found near Samsikapuram and in the high ground north-east of Rajapalayam. Between Kanadukkattan and Pallattur and around Kovilur, the laterites have a thickness of 3 to 4.5 metres below which they grade into the gritty sandstones. Around large villages, the hard laterites have been broken up by constant agricultural operations and they have given rise to fine sandy red soils of rather poor fertility.

Most of the area in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks is covered with black cotton soil or "regur" which is on an average about 3 metres thick. In some places, however, the thickness exceeds 4.5 metres as for example (1) in the area around Elayirampennai, (2) between Kakiradanpatti and Maraneri, (3) around Kilrajakularaman and (4) in the area around Solapuram. The black soil is sticky and highly porous and swells up when wet. It is fertile and supports a large variety of crops. The major portion of Tiruvadanai Taluk and part of the Ramanathapuram Taluk are covered by black soil which is 3.4 to 4.5 metres thick. It resembles the black cotton soils found in the western portion of the district. Black cotton soil contains nodules and concretions of kankar.

Sandy alluvial soils are common along river and stream courses in the District. They are generally fertile except where they are saline. Saline efflorescence is found along some of the stream beds near Rajasingamangalam. Fine, clayey alluvial soils seen in a narrow belt along the courses of the Manimuttar. A wide belt of fertile alluvium is seen on either side of the *Vaigai* river. Thin strips of alluvium are seen along *Sarugani* river. Small patches of saline or red soils are seen between Maniampatti and Anaikuttam, north of Reddipatti and east of Kakivadanpatti around the hamlet of Talakkapatti and between Panaiyadipatti and Manjalodaipatti.

An analysis of the efflorescence shows that the salts are mainly sodium sulphate and sodium chloride. Calcareous tufa is seen under the black soil around Karisalkulam south of Srivilliputhur. Dune of fine fed sand occurs about 0.2 km. to the north of Oriyur village. The sand is very fine and of a deep red colour, in contrast to the surroundings which consists of black soil. A small dune of red sand occurs about 1.6 Km. N.N.W. of Tiruppullani, to the east of the Ramanathapuram-Kilakkarai road. Another small red dune is found to the north of Rameswaram town. Small wind-blown dunes of white sand are seen at a few places along the coast. Concentrations of ilmenite and garnet sands are found as isolated patches near Vattanam, Nanbutalai and in Rameswaram Island. The Rameswaram island is built up of a coarse, brown to light grey sandstone carrying plenty of broken shells, coral fragments and other calcareous material. Overlying the calcareous sandstone, in the northern shore of Rameswaram is seen a marine limestone.

**Building Material** :—Good quality building stones and road metal are available in plenty. The granite and garnetiferous gneisses and charnockites are the two principal rock types which are valuable as building stones. Large quarries of gneisses occur at about 3.2 km. west of Sevvalpatti, 3.2 km. S.S.E. of Sevvalpatti, 1.6 km south of Panaiyadipatti, 1.6 km. of Melatayiluppatti, the Kottankulamparambu hill east of Rajapalayam, south of Muddulingapuram west and south-west of Tiruttangal near Tottenhampuram. Quarries of charnockite occur around Settur, eastern flank of the Kottankulamparambu hill, near Mudukudi, 0.8 km. north-west

of Solapuram. Large blocks of crystalline limestone are occasionally used as building stones. Quarzites are also used as road metal and building material. Gondwana shales found near Sivaganga and Penamangudi have been used as building stones and occasionally as red metal. Laterites are commonly used gneisses around Kunakkudi and Pillaiyarpatti, the calc gneisses around Kilamatam and the charnockites at Kambanur are also much in demand as road metal. Quarries of granitic gneisses are found at several places.

*Calcite* :—Bands of crystalline limestone intercalated with the quartzose gneiss are reported near Puvandi. The material is fairly pure calcite suitable for chemical industries. It is estimated that the high grade variety to a depth of 3 metres may contain a reserve of about 508,000 tonnes (this includes also the reserves at Sunnambur, Madurai District).

*Clay* :—Clay deposits are reported from Sivaganga area. These occur in Gondwana rocks, in shades of cream, buff yellow, orange yellow, and pink colours, with an average thickness of 0.9 metre over an area of nearly 2.59 sq. km. About 4,064,000 tonnes of the coloured shales are available in this area within a depth of 3 metres. Occurrence of clay is reported about 3.2 km. south-east of Manamadurai. Clay is also found near Arasanendanur and Panikkanandal.

*Garnet* :—A few small deposits of garnet rich sand occur along the coast south of Kaliman Kundu ( $9^{\circ}15' : 78^{\circ}53'30''$ ) and south of Ammankudi near Mantapam. Here they are associated with a certain amount of sillimanite.

*Gypsum* :—The occurrence of gypsum in the form of nodules and concretions in soil is reported around Kokkadi ( $9^{\circ}12' : 70^{\circ}24'$ ) and Avattandai ( $9^{\circ}13' : 78^{\circ}24'$ ). The estimated reserves are of the order of 30,480 tonnes. The nodules contain 75 to 80 per cent of gypsum the rest being grit and clayey material. Occurrence of gypsum is also recorded around Kilakkarai ( $9^{\circ}14' : 78^{\circ}47'$ ) in the Ramanathapuram Taluk. Gypsum occurs in a few localities close to the sea coast and appears to have been formed by the evaporation of sea water in shallow depressions or in old salt pans. The total reserves have been computed at roughly 2,032 tonnes for the entire area.

*Ilmenite* :—Small patches of ilmenite sand occur at Valinokkam ( $9^{\circ}10' : 78^{\circ}39'$ ), Kilakkarai ( $9^{\circ}14' : 78^{\circ}47'$ ), Ariyaman ( $9^{\circ}07' : 79^{\circ}4''$ ), Sundarathasdam ( $9^{\circ}17' : 79^{\circ}10'$ ) and in the south of the Pambar ( $9^{\circ}51' : 79^{\circ}07'$ ). Some minor occurrences of ilmenite-garnet sand are reported along the northern beach of the Rameswaram island. Smaller occurrences of ilmenite bearing sands are found in the following places. (i) between Puttukkudatham ( $9^{\circ}52' : 79^{\circ}07'$ ) and Sundarapandiyanpattanam ( $9^{\circ}50' : 79^{\circ}06'$ ). (ii) 0.14 km. south of the salt pans at Vattanam ( $9^{\circ}4' : 79^{\circ}04'$ ) (iii) 1.6 km. north of Pudupattanam ( $9^{\circ}41' : 78^{\circ}59'$ ). The total



reserves of the deposits mentioned above may be a few thousand tonnes. Ilmenite is also reported near Periyapattanam ( $9^{\circ}16' : 78^{\circ} 54'30''$ ) east of Sundaradasmadam ( $9^{\circ}17' : 79^{\circ}10'$ ), near Mantapam and south of which some deposits contain 50-60 per cent ilmenite associated with garnet, zircon, etc.

**Iron Ore** :—Small lenses and pockets of magnetite occurring in gneiss, 2.4 km. south-west of Elayirampannai have been reported. The gneiss locally shows fine interbanding with magnetite.

**Limestone** :—A band of crystalline limestone occurs east of Puvandi ( $9^{\circ}15' : 78^{\circ}18'$ ). It strikes E.N.E.-W.S.W. and is seen for a length of about 396 m. with an average width of 9.14m. The material is mostly of very good quality. Another band about 609 metres long and 91.43 metres to 213 metres wide cuts the Puvandi-Melur Road near Sunnambur ( $9^{\circ}52' 30'' : 78^{\circ}17'30''$ ). About 0.2 km. to the south of this is a smaller exposure. These are composed mostly of high grade material but the large band contains some impure material towards its western end. The Puvandi and Sunnambur bands contain about 1,016,000 tons of good quality material upto a depth of 6 metres.

At Tirumal ( $9^{\circ}43' : 78^{\circ}03'$ ), 9.6 km. N.E. of Kalligudi Railway Station, is exposed a double band of crystalline limestone which can be traced westwards for 3.2 km. It contains calciphyres as well as much good material. Another band is seen some 1.2 km. N.W. of Tirumal having a length of 36.57 metres. Another occurrence, in the tank of the same village, is much obscured by soil cover. Two small bands occur west of Kokkulam about 1.6 km. north-east of the Tirumal outcrop. Part of this is of good quality and another part contains coccolite and chondrodite. Near Pandalkudi ( $9^{\circ}23' 30'' : 78^{\circ}0'30''$ ), 12.8 km. south of Aruppukkottai and on the Madura-Tuticorin Trunk Road, a large band of crystalline limestone is seen extending for nearly 6.4 km. in a N.W. S.E. direction and having a width of 55 to 84 metres. Analysis of samples from the visibly good portions showed that material is of very high grade with low magnesia and silica. The central portion is mostly of excellent quality. This occurrence contains within a depth of 6 metres at least 762,000 tonnes of high grade material and 1,524,000 tonnes with some impurities but suitable for cement making.

Palavanatham ( $9^{\circ}33' : 78^{\circ}0'30''$ ) occurrence is about 6.4 km. east of Virudhunagar on the road to Aruppukkottai. It is largely covered by black soil to a depth of 0.9 to 1.2 metres. Its width is 30 to 61 metres in different parts. The band is estimated to contain, within, a depth of 6 metres, 863,600 tonnes of high quality and 1,727,200 tonnes of somewhat poorer material which, however, could be used for cement making.

A band, 91 to 106 metres wide and about 1.6 km. long, extends N.W.-S.E. at Chinnayapuram ( $9^{\circ} 28'30'' : 77^{\circ}54'15''$ ) which is about 12.8 km. north of Sattur and 4 km. N.W. of Tulukkapatti

Railway Station. To a depth of 6 metres, it is estimated to contain 508,000 tonnes of high grade and 1,016,000 tonnes of poor grade limestone suitable for cement making. There are several small occurrences in the Pandalkudi region but most of them are of poor quality. Calcareous sandstone and grit of late Tertiary age occur along the coast of the District. It has been used in the construction of famous temple of Rameswaram. It is quarried near Bailnokkam ( $9^{\circ}10' 78^{\circ}39'$ ). About 1.6 km. south-west of Alangulam ( $9^{\circ}21' 40'' : 77^{\circ}41'$ ), there are two or three thin limestone bands each about 15 metres in width and one extending to a length of 1.6 km. in a N.E.-S.W. direction. The minimum reserves of good quality limestone from all the bands together may be about 203,200 tonnes for an assumed depth of 3 metres. There are also two thin bands of crystalline limestone at 0.4 km. west of Kallamanikkanpatti ( $9^{\circ}22'10'' : 77^{\circ}42'30''$ ) but they seem to carry a large amount of impurities. The probable minimum reserves of a fairly good quality limestone may be estimated at 101,600 tonnes for an assumed depth of 3 metres. Two thin bands of impure limestone have been recorded at two localities, namely 0.4 km. south-east of Reddiya-patti ( $9^{\circ}35' : 78^{\circ}3'$ ) and 0.4 km. north of Minakshipuram ( $9^{\circ}43' : 78^{\circ}6''$ ).

Recent coral reefs occur as disconnected masses fringing the isles in the Gulf of Mannar. The reefs analyses over 52 per cent  $\text{CaO}$ , upto 2 per cent  $\text{SiO}_2$ , and 1 per cent  $\text{R}_2\text{O}_3$ . The sub-Resent shell limestone exposed in low ground about 0.8 km. north of Rameswaram ( $9^{\circ}17' : 79^{\circ}19''$ ), would yield about 812,800 tonnes of materials analysing 5.88 per cent  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1.121 per cent  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , 0.81 per cent  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , 0.72 per cent  $\text{MgO}$ , 49.25 per cent  $\text{CaO}$ , 0.46 per cent  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , 0.048 per cent  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ , 0.56 per cent  $\text{SO}_3$ .

*Mica* :—Mica was reported from Singampunari ( $10^{\circ} 11' : 78^{\circ} 25'$ ) in the Sivaganga Zamin while excavating a pond. The excavated debris at the sides of the tank showed pieces of mica-schist and granite. The reported occurrence is of sporadic nature.

*Mineral Pigments* :—Yellow shales and red ironstone layers underlie laterite west of Puvali and Pundupatti ( $9^{\circ} 48' 30'' : 18^{\circ} 31'$ ) 4.8 km. south-east of Sivaganga, covering an area of 2.59 sq. km. Assuming an average thickness of 0.6 metres, the reserves would be 28,44,800 tonnes. There are also thin beds of comparatively soft ironstone which would serve as red ochre. Some of the yellow shales found near Sivaganga ( $9^{\circ} 51' : 78^{\circ} 29'$ ) and Paramagudi ( $9^{\circ} 56' : 78^{\circ} 37'$ ) may be useful as ochre. Occurrences of red and yellow ochres are recorded near Anavari ( $10^{\circ} 13' : 78^{\circ} 50'$ ) in the Pudukkottai area. Yellow and red shales occur around Ummudisanpatti (Ramachandrapuram), between Muttupatti Madalampatti and Siruvayal, Umli, Nattarasankottai, Kandippatti, Udaipu, Vittaneripudukkudi, etc.

*Refractories* :—Fine clay is available in the Tertiary strata of the District.

**Zircon** :—Crystals of zircon are noted in the rocks associated with a graphite deposit near Sittur. They are, however, of academic interest only.

### SOILS AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES.

The western taluks of Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukkottai are mainly covered by black loamy soil which is suitable for growing cotton, chillies and millets. The calcareous nodules (kankar) found in these soft clay soil is probably due to the lime-stones bands occurring among the Archaean bed rocks. It is believed that the black colour is due to a rich humus content rather than its lime content. Large portions of the Tiruppattur and Sivaganga taluks, especially the sedimentary rocks are covered by a capping of hard red laterite. This hard laterite forms a poor soil and hence large tracts are left as thorny jungle unfit for cultivation. The coastal taluks of Tiruvadanai, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur are covered by alluvial soil which is of a grey or pale brown colour and is made up of fine clay or sand suitable for paddy cultivation. The sea coast and the Rameswaram Island are covered by white sand dunes on which nothing is grown.

**Water Supply** :—In Srivilliputtur Taluk and in parts of Sattur Taluk the depth of the wells varies from 6 to 15 metres and the water table is 7.5 to 9 metres below surface during summer months. The water table rises by 6 to 7.5 metres during the rainy season. In the Archaean terrain around Kilasevalpatti, Tiruppattur and Kunnakkudi, the water table is at depths of not less than 9 metres from the ground level and at places even at depths of 12 or 15 metres.

The Ramanathapuram District is poor in its groundwater resources and hence the main crops are of cotton, chillies, millets, groundnuts, etc., which require little water. However, there are some portions of eastern Ramanathapuram, particularly in the areas occupied by sedimentary rocks and alluvium where it may be possible to tap considerable quantities of water from boreholes reaching to 100 to 200 feet in depth. The areas around Karaikkudi, Kandanur-Sakkottai, Devakottai, Embal, Sarugani, Tiruvadanai, and Rajasingamangalam are worth investigation for groundwater development. The beds of the *Vaigai* and *Vaippar* also yield fairly good supply of water<sup>1</sup>.

### FLORA.

The District has a varied flora. A number of types of forests like the *Southern cutch thorn forests*, *Tropical dry evergreen forests*, *Carnatic umbrella thorn forests*, etc., occur in the District.

1. Source :—Extracts from the article—Geological Potentials of Ramanathapuram District by Sri V. Gopal, State Geologist, Madras in the *Souvenir of the Industries Seminar, Ramanathapuram*, 1963, Page 73-77.

The District possesses nearly 199-681 square miles of forest as shown below :—

|   | <i>Square<br/>Miles.</i> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Class I—Reserve Forest .. .. .            | 71-551                   |
| Class III —Panchayats Forests .. .. .     | 0-860                    |
| Ex-zamin Forest and reserved land .. .. . | 127-270                  |

Elevation, rainfall, nature of the soil, nearness to the sea, proximity to cultivation and the indiscriminate cutting of plants and trees are the principal factors which control the types of forest growth in the District. For convenience of description, the following maintypes of forests as per the *Champion's classification* can be distinguished.<sup>1</sup>

**Southern Cutch Thorn Forests :—**The forests on the plain mostly fall under this classification. These forests which receive about 75 centimetres of rainfall consist of an open deciduous scrub in which thorny hard wood species predominate, *Acacia* species being particularly characteristic. The overwood generally consists of *Acacia leucophloea*, *albizzia amara*, *Acacia ferruginea*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Dalbergia multiflora* and *spinosa*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Canthium divinum*, *Sirynchos potatorum*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Zizyphus xylopyrus*, *Hugonia mystax* and others. *Acacia leucophloea* forms 50 per cent of the crop with a tendency to occur purs in patches. Along the low undulating hills where the soil is girtty with a strata of granular quartz pebbles, *Albizzia mara* predominates. The trees usually have short boles with low branching crowns. The usual height is 25 to 30 feet (8 to 10 metres approximately). There is an ill-defined lower storey of sapling and pole stages of the overwood, and large shrubs mostly spiny and often with erophytic characters extending down to low shrub of similar character. The species constituting the underwood are *Randia dumetorum*, *Carissa carandas*, *Dichroalchys cinerea*, *Fluggea leucopyrus*, *atlantic monophylla*, *Gmelina*, *Cassia auriculata* and *Dodones viscosa*. Herbaceous growth is almost absent. There is usually a thin grass growth of *Aristida specia* and *Heteropogon contortus* which may appear fairly complete during the short moist season, but more or less the soil is bare. This is the most frequent type of forest occurring over large areas on the plains in and around the towns of Karaikkudi, Tiruppattur and Sivaganga. Being closest to habitation this class of forest suffers most from over grazing and injuries by man. The surface soil is usually hard and impervious due to exposure and trampling by cattle and much of the little rain that is received runs off the surface. Coppice regeneration is fair,

1. : Source Special Tahsildar for District Gazetteers, Ramanathapuram.

2. Source : Working Plan for the Ramanathapuram Forest Division, (Typescript)

but natural seedling regeneration is conspicuous by its absence. The result is that stocking is variable, being very poor in parts. Some form of artificial regeneration, whereby the rain water is collected and made available for the seedlings raised is clearly called for, in order to improve the existing growing stock with useful indigenous and exotic species in sites, wherever suitable.

Localised areas of this type of forests which have suffered less from pilferage and hacking due to prevailing local sentiments consist of a good stocking of the species mentioned above. Examples of such areas are the Vellamalai, Piranpatti, Eriurmalai and A. Thekkur blocks.

Very often in localised patches of areas where the edaphic factors are most hostile, like a shallow soil, due to chronic sheet erosion with outcrops of quartzitic boulders or due to lateritic crusts, the southern cutch thorn forest exhibits a preponderance of *Acacia latronum* accompanied with other useless species like *Balsamodendron, berrvi*, *Dolichandrone crista*, *Fleshy Euphorbias*, *Acacia sundra*, *Dichrostachys cinerea*, etc. The trees are extremely stunted and the forest floor is very often bare with no growth. The shallow soil with a boundary outcrop tends itself hostile to any form of regeneration. Certain bare isolated small hillocks east of Tiruppattur bordering the Madurai and Tiruchirappalli districts, portions of the Kothamangalam and Elangudi blocks consist of a vegetation of entirely this type.

**Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests :—Carnatic evergreen forests :—** This type of forest occurs locally on the plains in moisture situations or where the edaphic factors are more favourable like a clayey soil with higher moisture retentivity. Champion in his book *A Preliminary Survey of the Forest Types of India and Burma* describes this type as a low forest, 20',—40', (10 to 15 metres approximately) high, but forming a complete canopy consisting mostly of small coriaceous-leaved evergreen trees with short boles and spreading crowns. There is no marked differentiation of canopy layers between the shrubby overwood which includes many spiny species and the top canopy. A few species form the bulk of the crop which is, however, decidedly a mixed type, pure consociations being exceptional. Climbers are numerous. Bamboos are rare or absent. Grass is present but not conspicuous. Most of the forests have been much influenced by felling, lopping and browsing and have become irregular with open patches, and thorny and unpalatable species have largely displaced the climax vegetation.

The overwood consists of chiefly *Mimusops hexandra* and *Memecylon edule*. These are accompanied to a lesser degree by species like *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Stychnos potatorum*, *Syzygium cumni*, *Diospyros species*, *Sapindus emarginatus*, *Zizyphus*, *Xylopyrus*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Atlantia monophylla*, and others. The underwood consists of *Randia dumetorum*, *Carissa earandas*, *Gmelina*

*asiatica*, *Maba buxifolia*, *Webera corymphosa*, *Dodonea viscosa*, *Murrava exotica*, *Pavetta Indica*, and poles and saplings of the overwood. The shrubby growth generally consists of *Memecylonedule* and in a few places *Strohilanthes* species. Grasses like *Aristida* species are found scattered. The climbers commonly met with are *Acacia intsia*, *Pterolobium indicum*, *Zizyphus oenoplia* *Combretum* species, *Derris ecandens*, *Abrus precatorius* and others.

Only in a few patches in the interior along the stream banks and moisture situations rather remote to human agencies only, we meet with forests typical of this description e.g., Mummarasampatti, Sakkottai, and Palayur blocks. Due to biotic influences resulting in repeated cutting of these forests, considerable retrogression has set in, and the forest can be seen in several stages of retrogression.

**Fuel and Cashew Plantations** :—In an effort to rehabilitate the forests on the plains, a number of miscellaneous fuel plantations were raised in selected areas from time to time mostly under the First and Second Five-Year Plan Schemes, and some under the executive orders of the Chief Conservator of Forests.

Plantations of cashew on the plains, forests were initiated since 1957 under Second Five Year Plan. Although the results achieved so far have been mixed the overall picture is promising, and further efforts to propagate this species on a more extensive scale has been initiated, in order to improve the low quality forests occurring largely on the plains.

**Carnatic Umbrella Thorn Forests** :—This type of forest is seen extensively all over the Ramanathapuram coast and in the Rameswaram Island in both *patta* and Government lands, the latter being however restricted to two isolated patches near the Sayalgudi and Tondi coasts. *Odai* (*Acacia Planifrons*) with its umbrella-shaped crown forms nearly 90 per cent of the crop, dotted with palmyra (*Borassus flabellifer*) trees. The soil here is one of sterile sand or *manal* of sandstone origin and the very exacting nature of the soil perhaps tends to limit the species to one of pure *Acacia planifrons* except near the fringes of the forest on the leeward side which merges with cultivation where there is a slight admixture of clay resulting in a sprinkling of other deciduous species like *Gmelina asiatica* *Flugges leucopryus*, *Lannea grandis* and others. The second story consists of sapling and pole stages of the overwood. The forest floor is more often bare, but sometimes with herbs like *Aera lanata* *Sida Cordifolia* and creepers like *Spinifex squarrosus* *Ipomoea biloba*, and *Cissus quadrangularis*. The former help in binding the soil. Natural regeneration of *Acacia planifrons* through seeds navigated by goats occurs is plenty especially on the *patta* lands. In moisture patches along the coast, the *Acacia planifrons* gives way to *phonix* species and *pandanus odoratissimus* as seen in the Rames-

waram Island. These coastal forest serve as a valuable shelter belt against drifting sands which are severe along the Rameswaram coast more particularly south of the Rameswaram Island. Their maintenance and extension are of extreme importance in preventing soil erosion in the coastal tracts.

**Casuarina Plantations** :—With a view to stabilize the coastal sandy tracts a beginning was made to plant casuarina in suitable waste lands in the Rameswaram Island since 1954 under the Second Five-Year Plan Scheme. The success of the plantations has been varying, and has been largely dependent on the terrain. In low lying areas subjected to water-logging, casuarina has invariably failed. The same is the case on sandy mounds where the water table is deeper. Care has to be, therefore, taken in the selection of the proper site. Two experimental casuarina plantations were also raised along the Sayalgudi coast with a view to convert the existing *odai* crop. The response has been rather poor owing to the low water table which is more than 20 feet (6 metres approximately) deep during summer.

**Along the Ghats the following types of forests are met with :—**

**South India Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests** :—This type extends over the outer most slopes of the Ghats, from the margin of cultivation to an elevation of 300 to 500 feet (90 to 150 metres approximately) on shallow soiled well drained hill sides or undulating ground, and it is often difficult to decide whether the occurrence of this type is due to site or climate. The principal species met with here are *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Acacia planifrons*, *Albizia amara*, *Albizia lebbek*, *Tectona grandia*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Morinda tinctoria*, *wrightia tinctoria*, *Givotia rotleri formis*, *Gyrocarous jacquini*, *Portium caudatum*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Cochlospermum gossypium*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* and others. Throny species like *Acacias* occur and tend to increase in proportion with the heavy grazing and biotic influences to which most of the areas are subjected. The forests are burnt annually. The underwood although not clearly discernible, consists of sapling and pole stages of the overwood, and shrubby growth of *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Fluggea leucopyrus*, *Ggelina asiatica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Payeta indica*, *Cassia auriculata*, *Dodonea viscosa*, etc. Grasses like *Andropogon* and *Cymbogogaon* species *Aristida*, *Apulada* etc. are conspicuous till they are grazed down or burnt. Climbers are generally few, but may be heavy locally in moist situation, the commoner ones being *Acacia intsia* and *Ptorolobium indicum*.

**Miscellaneous Fuel Plantations** : Three large areas, two in Sappaniparambu and another at Kottankulam were planted up with miscellaneous fuel species between 1953 and 1955 in order

to improve the stocking of these areas, notwithstanding the fact that this type of forest occurs on hill slopes with boulders and rocky outcrops and a very shallow soil. The results have been rather disastrous. It would not be too much to say that not even one plant had established itself and even the plantation sites could not be located in the field.

*South Indian Dry Teak Forests:*—This type comprises all the forests on the outer slopes above the type mentioned above up to an elevation of about 1,500 feet (455 metres approximately) and may be described as an associate formation of deciduous species degraded in parts by recurrent fires. In favourable localities where the soil is richer, e.g. the Ayyanarkoil series or the Sirakadu portion of the Seithur ex-estate forests this type comes down to the margin of cultivation. The principal species associated with this class of forest are *Tectona grandis*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Albizia lebbek*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Dalbergia sissooides*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Schleichera trijuga*, *Stereospermum Chelonoides*, *Pongamia glabra* (along streams), *Sapindus emarginatus*, *Melia dubia*, *Melia azadirachta*, *Careva arborea*, *Dalbergia Daniculata*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Bridelia retusa*, etc. The only sandal in the Division in the Alagarkoil valley occurs in this type of forest. The sandal here is peculiarly free of the spike disease just as in the Courtallam and Shencottah Ranges of Tirunelveli North Forest Division for reasons not known to foresters, so far. Probably the greater incidence of moisture in this sheltered valley has favoured the growth of sandal which perhaps also explains the absence of sandal elsewhere in the Division. Another reason that could be attributed is the endemic nature of the sandal here isolating it from the contagion of the spike virus. The behaviour of this valuable species has, therefore, to be closely watched for the future.

The under growth consists principally of *Strobilathes* species, grasses, *Helicteres isora*, *Pavetta indica*, *Mundulea suberosa*, *Murraya exotica*, *Clycosmis pentaphylla* and others. Climbers are of very frequent occurrence, the chief being *Acacia intsia*, *Pterolobium indicum*, and *Atylosia* species. Where fires are rare and the rainfall is over 100 centimetres the growth is dense, and the species in admixture are good. Teak generally forms 50 per cent of the crop, the percentage increasing on deep loamy soil so characteristic of the Sirakadu and Ayyanarkoil forests. The better quality fuel series on the Ghats are all found in this type of forests, whereas coppice regeneration is generally good, seedling regeneration leaves some room for improvement. This type of forest is eminently suited for the production of small timber if worked under the 'Coppice with Reserves' system on a rotation of 40 years. Rapid fire protection and closure to grazing for at least 5 years after felling are the two essentials.



**Teak Plantations :—**Mention must be made of the 6 plantations of teak in the Ayyanarkoil valley, formed in the past by enthusiastic District Forest Officers. Except for portions of the 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 plantations the rest of them have not been successful. The main reason for this appears to be the lack of proper tending operations during the subsequent years, and the rather low rainfall of about 75 centimetres received by the area. Due to the discouraging results obtained, further planting of teak was abandoned.

Another beginning to plant teak was made in 1956 under the second Five Year Plan Scheme. As per this scheme 100 acres (41 hectares approximately) of deciduous forests in the Seithur ex-estate forests are now being felled and planted up with teak. The resultant teak plantations are not very encouraging owing to the nature of the crop, which is not uniform and the extremely slow growth exhibited by the plants, but the planting is being continued to make up the State-wide shortage of teak after the Reorganisation of States.

**Dry Savannah Forests :—**A considerable portion of the teak forest mentioned in the earlier para are subjected to recurrent fires mostly due to vandalism on the part of graziers. Fires are particularly common on the steeper slopes, and repeated burning has retrogressed these forests to a *dry savannah* type. Here the canopy is open, and lemon grass (*Cymbopogon flexuosus*, principally) overruns the area and only fire resistant species like *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia chebila*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Buchanania latifolia*, *Carapa arborea*, *Emblica officinalis* persist either slowly establishing themselves as trees or sending up annual shoots from a rooty woodstock. The trees have very short boles, and are usually crooked and hollow. This class of forest is not suitable for exploitation at present, but with adequate fire protection it would probably revert to the dry teak forest in process of time.

**Semi-evergreen Forests :—**Where the rainfall is over 180 centimetres, the elevation over 1,500 feet (455 metres approximately) and the soil suitable, the deciduous forest gives away to a semi-evergreen type the principal species met with being *Hopes parviflora*, *Pterospermum rubiginosum*, *Aglaia courtallensis*, *Filicium decipiens*, *Hemicyclos venusta*, *Sterospermum Chelonoides*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Bischofia javanica*, and *Carallia integerrima* together with a host of other less known species. The underwood is of *Nephelium longana*, *Diospyros species*, *Syzygium cumini* *Litsea species*, *Mallotus philippinensis*, and poles and saplings of the overwood. The undergrowth is dense and consists of *Srobilanthes*, *Glycosmis pentaphylla*, *Helecteres isora*, *Clerodendron infortunatum*, etc. Climbers are numerous, the principal ones being *Hippocrates indica*, *simlax species* *Entada scandens*, *ventilado maderaspatana* etc. Small patches of this type of forest are found along

streams at elevations below 1,000 feet (300 metres approximately) and in portions of the Alagarkoil valley, but the greater portion of it occurs between 1,300 to 3,250 feet (400 to 1,000 metres approximately) elevation on sheltered slopes. The majority of this type shows a marked uniformity as far as the density of stocking is concerned, which is quite good. This is probably accounted for by the increased rainfall and consequent increased vegetative activity.

**Western Tropical Evergreen Forest:**—Above an elevation of 3,250 feet (1,004 metres approximately), the Ghats of Srivilliputtur Range exhibit a number of patches of sholas varying in size from 100 acres to 350 acres (40 to 140 hectares approximately) which are surrounded by grass land. These sholas are not either so dense, or so luxuriant as the typical sholas of the Western Ghats, owing to the fact, that the Travancore High Ranges and the Upper Palanis keep off much of the rain which would otherwise fall on these hills, and the locality is far less moist. Three tiers are generally distinguishable. The overwood consists of principally *Acrocarpus fraximifolius*, *Cullenia rosaryana*, *Vitex ulitissima*, *Cedrela toona*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Palacium ellipticum*, *Bizchofia javanica*, *Mangifera indica*, and others. The second storey consists of *Myristica* species, *Nephelium longena*, *cordoria obtusa*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Agrostachya longifolia*, *Cinnamomum gracile*, etc. The lowest tiers consist of sapling growth of the above species, *Hydnocarpus wightianus*, *Mallotus philippinensis*, *Polyalthia fragrans*, *Diospyroa* species etc. The undergrowth is dense, the principal species being *Pandanus* species *Solanum* species, the dreaded, but comparatively rare devils nettle, *Laportea crenulata*, picturesque maiden hair and bracken ferns, and palms like *Caryota urens* and *Pinanga dicksoni* are also scattered all over the forest.

The height of growth of the overwood varies with the rain fall and the depth of the soil which tend to increase it, and the elevation which tends to depress it. Thus on the widespread ridges above 5,000 feet (4,920 metres approximately) the forest is badly 30 to 40 feet (10 to 15 metres approximately), high, while on the sheltered slopes along stream banks, the forest has an average height of 100 feet (30 metres approximately). A fair proportion of the sholas in the Seithur ex-estate forest was assigned for cardamom cultivation, prior to zamin abolition, to a number of landlords in Rajapalayam. Cardamom cultivation has been profitably established in these areas, but considering the fact, that these slopes are mostly steep and the extent of sholas rather limited, it is extremely necessary to restrict further cultivation of cardamom within the Division. The maintenance of the essential character of the rain forests, and the undertaking of inexpensive measures for their expansion, are matters of first importance, in view of the great part they undoubtedly play in conserving and regulating the water supply for the numerous fields and tanks in the plains below.

## FAUNA.

Wild life are significantly much lesser in numbers in this District. Wild pig, Porcupine, Spotted deer, and the Black-naped hare are limited to the plains forests, and the lower slopes of the Ghats. In the plains, their incidence is low, on account of the scattered nature, and limited distribution of the degraded forests. When these degraded forests improve under the period of rest, rehabilitation, and afforestation, the wild life is bound to increase. Sambur is confined to the sholas of Srivilliputtur only. It attains a fair size here, but stag with good antlers are not common. The Barking Deer, never a gregarious animal and usually confined more or less to a locality, may be seen occasionally. It is an interesting experience to watch this peculiar deer feeding; it wraps an amazingly long tongue around a twig, then pulls in its tongue, stripping the foliage off the twig. The loud alarm call of this dainty deer always seems out of all proportion to its size.

Elephants are plentiful along the upper slopes of the Ghats, where they roam about freely. Large herds are, however, uncommon, but it is difficult to predict their movements, particularly during the monsoon months when they have considerable choice of water and feeding grounds.

Tigers and Panthers are found occasionally in the Srivilliputtur Range. They are absent on the plains. The Black Bear hunts the sho'a forests of Srivilliputtur. Since it is largely nocturnal, one comes across evidence of its activities, torn up anthills and the like, oftener than the beast itself, but it does come out during the day occasionally.

The Nilgiris Ibex is found scattered over the Srivilliputtur Range, its main habitat being the precipitous and grassy slopes above 3,800 feet (1,200 metres approximately) elevation. The principal haunts of this animal are Pemaiai Mottai, Panjanthangi Mottai, and Palavarangi Mottai.

The sholas contain monkeys of the *langur* variety. The Red-faced Bonnet Monkey is confined to the plains. It is specifically the same as the old, cheeky creature against which humanity has to be on its guard in health resorts like Courtallam, but here it is not only smaller but also much less obtrusive. It does not haunt the purview of human settlements in large troops, and is surprisingly absent in the Rameswaram Island. It is seen occasionally in small parties in the jungles. It is omnivorous, and eats eggs, insects and their grubs, and similar things, in addition to fruits, buds and leaves.

The handsome Malabar Squirrel, is restricted to the semi-ever-green and evergreen tracts of the Srivilliputtur Range. It is found to build huge globular nests high up in the trees, and its loud, rattling call can be heard quite some distance away.

The common south Indian poisonous snakes like the Cobra, the Viper and the Krait are well represented all over the plains, and in the Ghats. Hamadrayads and Pythons are restricted to the interior sholas only. Sea snakes are plentiful all along the coast, and are said to frequently nibble and tear off the nets of fishermen. They are poisonous, but fatalities rarely occur. Of the other reptiles, *Iguana*, the much hunted monitor lizard is recorded to occur in the Srivilliputtur forests, but is comparatively rare.

Among the lesser fauna of the District may be mentioned the Stripe-necked Mongoose (the largest of our mongooses), Civet Cats, and Field Rats.

*Bird Life* :—The Ramanathapuram District is a paradise for the bird-watcher, especially during the winter months when all the tanks are full attracting many avian visitors. As already observed, the number of tanks in this District are so many, that very appropriately it is referred to as the 'Lake District' of the State. Many beautiful birds like the Paradise Fly-catcher, the Golden Oriole, the Small Green Barbet, the Red-vented Bulbul, the King-fisher, the Black Cormorant, the Partridge, the Snipe, the Rose-ringed Parakeet, and the Blossom-headed Parakeet are seen in the lower forests along the plains.

Other birds of note are the Greater Horn-bill, the Whistling School-boy, the Racket-tailed Drongo, the Scarlet Minivet, the Grey tit, the Golden-backed Woodpecker, and the hill Mynah. These birds are, however, confined to the shola forests only.

Along the deciduous forests on the lower slopes of the Ghats, the chief birds are the Grey Jungle Fowl, whose early morning crowing can be heard to a fair distance, the Red Spurfowl, the Imperial Pigeon and the Green Pigeon, the Painted Partridge and the Grey Partridge, and Bush-quails.

The Pea Fowl is distinctly rare on the Ghats, a few, however appear to inhabit the Melavannarippu and Piranpatti hills on the plains.

*Fishes* :—The sea-coast in the District yields a rich variety of fishes. Sharks, pomfrets, cat-fish, mackerel, prawns oysters and crabs are also caught in abundance on the reefs of the coasts. Mantapam and Rameswaram are important fishing centres.

## GAME LAWS AND MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE IN THE DISTRICT.

Sections 21 (f), 21 (h), 26 (f), 26 (g), 23, 51 and 55 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act VIII of 1912, the Madras Wild Elephants Preservation Act, 1873, as amended by the Madras Wild Elephants Preservation (Amendment) Act, 1930, and section 13 of the Indian Arms Act, 1878, constitute the *Game Laws*. The *Game Laws and Rules* are printed in the licences granted for shooting.

The shooting of elephants, except in the case of those duly declared as rogue or in the case of defence of life or when they are found upon cultivated lands, is prohibited. The shooting of Malabar Squirrels, all kinds of monkeys, Mouse Deer, Black Buck, imported animals, the females and immature males of Sambur, Chital, Bison, Ibex, Antelope, Barking Deer and Buffalocs is prohibited. The shooting of Tiger, Panther, Bear and Pig is also prohibited. In the case of Big Game, the number of animals that may be shot is specified in the licence when it is issued to the licensee. The licensee should furnish a list of animals shot with dates and measurements of horned trophies to the Issuing Officer, duly signed by a Forest Officer, within three months from the date of expiry of the licence. All wounded animals also count against the licence as regards 'bag.' There is similar prohibition in respect of Small Game, and birds. The removal of birds, eggs, the use of poison, dynamite or other explosives and setting up of traps and snares are also prohibited.

To educate the public on the need for the preservation of wild life, every year, during the first week of October, *Wild Life Week* is celebrated. As part of the celebrations, to create interest among the public on wild life and to enthuse them on the need for their protection and preservation, among others, public meetings are conducted, brochures on wild life are distributed, and posters depicting wild life are displayed. Wherever possible, colourful processions of animals like elephants, camels, etc., are taken out, and guided excursions into forests are conducted by Forest Officers.

## CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.

The District as a whole is very dry, mitigated to some extent by the sea-breeze in the coastal areas. The District has a hot tropical climate. April to June are the hottest months. The south-west monsoon season which follows lasts till September. October and November constitute the retreating monsoon or the post-monsoon season. The period from December to February is the north-east monsoon season with the associated rain confined to the first half of the season, the second half being one of generally clear bright weather.

**Rainfall:** Records of rainfall in the District are available from 19 rain-guage stations for periods from 47 to 92 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations, and for the District as a whole are given in the tables 1 and 2 below. The average annual rainfall in the District is 839.5 mm. (33.05"). The period from October to December is the main rainy season in the District. About 54 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in this period. October and November are the rainiest months. Some rainfall occurs during the summer and is mainly in the form of thundershowers. In the south-west monsoon season which is generally associated with the main rainy season over most parts of India, the rainfall in this District is very small. The rainfall in the District increases from the south towards the north and varies from 681.0 mm. (26.81") at Kamudi to 981.4 mm (38.64") at Tiruppattur. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is not very large. The highest annual rainfall which was 141 per cent of the normal occurred in 1940, while the lowest annual rainfall which was 66 per cent of the normal occurred in 1904. During the fifty year period, 1901 to 1950, the annual rainfall in the District was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 7 years, none of them being consecutive. However, considering the rainfall at the individual stations during the same 50 year period, two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred at 15 out of the 19 stations, at some stations even on three to four occasions. Even 3 consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once or twice at 7 of the stations. It will be seen from Table 2, that the annual rainfall in the District was between 700 and 1,000 mm. (27.56" and 39.37") in 36 years out of fifty.

On an average there are 46 rainy days (i.e., days with rainfall of 2.5 mm.—10 cents—or more) in a year in the District. This number varies from 40 at Kamudi to 55 at Tiruppattur.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the District was 439.4 mm. (17.30") at Vattanam on 13th January 1923 and 2nd December 1955.

**Temperature:**—There are two meteorological observatories in the District, one at Pamban, and the other at Tondi. The observatory at Tondi was started only recently. The data of Pamban observatory are available for a long period and its records may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions prevailing in the District in general, and the coastal parts in particular. The period from the middle of February to May is one of steady increase in temperature. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 33.1°C (91.6° F) and the mean daily minimum at 27.3° C (81.1° F) at Pamban. The summer season is hot and oppressive being particularly so in the coastal parts, due to the high moisture content. Sea breeze which blows in the afternoon along the coast gives agreeable relief. During the period from June to September, both the day and night temperatures are nearly as high as the temperatures during the hot season. The variation in the mean temperature from

season to season is very small. In December and January which is the coolest part of the year the mean daily maximum temperature is  $28.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $82.6^{\circ}$ ) and the mean daily minimum is  $23.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $74.7^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at Pamban.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Pamban was  $27.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $99.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) on 27th April 1930 and 11th June 1913 and the lowest minimum was  $18.9^{\circ}$  ( $66.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) on 10th December 1953.

*Humidity* :—High relative humidities between 75 to 85 per cent prevail all the year round particularly in the coastal parts of the District. In the summer season the humidities in the interior parts of the District are slightly lower.

*Cloudiness* :—During the period September to December the skies are heavily clouded to overcast. They are moderately clouded during January and February and are lightly clouded in the rest of the year.

*Winds* :—Winds are generally moderate in strength with some increase in speed during the period from May to July and from November to January. Winds are mainly from directions between north and north-east from November to February. In March winds are mostly from directions between northeast and south-east in the mornings. In the afternoons they are either northerly to north-easterly or southerly to south-easterly. From April to October winds blow mostly from directions between south and west in the mornings, while in the afternoons they are from directions between south-west and south-east.

*Special Weather Phenomena* :—Depression and cyclonic storms<sup>1</sup> originating in south Bay of Bengal in the post-monsoon and the first half of the north-east monsoon, move in the westerly to west-north-westerly direction and reach the District or its neighbourhood causing wide spread heavy rain and very strong winds. Thunderstorms occur in the summer and post-monsoon seasons.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 below give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Pamban<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For further details please see the chapter on *Agriculture and Irrigation*.

<sup>2</sup> Source : Deputy Director-General of Observatories, Poona.

TABLE—1.

## NORMALS AND EXTREMES OF RAINFALL.

| Station.       | Number<br>of years<br>of data. | January.    | February.   | March.      | April.      | May.        | June.       | July.       | August.      | Septem-<br>ber. |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| (1)            | (2)                            | (3)         | (4)         | (5)         | (6)         | (7)         | (8)         | (9)         | (10)         | (11)            |
| Tittandadanam  | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 59.9<br>2.9 | 29.2<br>1.6 | 27.2<br>1.6 | 49.3<br>2.9 | 36.8<br>2.3 | 20.1<br>1.6 | 34.3<br>1.8 | 49.0<br>3.4  | 52.8<br>4.0     |
| Vettanam       | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 66.5<br>3.0 | 24.6<br>1.5 | 26.9<br>1.6 | 49.3<br>2.7 | 37.6<br>2.2 | 18.8<br>1.3 | 26.4<br>1.9 | 41.4<br>3.0  | 56.1<br>3.6     |
| Tiruvadanai    | .. ..<br>49 a<br>b             | 50.3<br>2.3 | 20.6<br>1.3 | 19.6<br>1.3 | 52.6<br>2.8 | 36.6<br>2.2 | 27.9<br>1.6 | 31.5<br>2.3 | 65.3<br>4.1  | 80.3<br>4.3     |
| Sivaganga      | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 42.7<br>2.3 | 14.0<br>0.9 | 16.5<br>1.1 | 58.7<br>2.8 | 64.3<br>3.8 | 36.6<br>2.8 | 50.3<br>3.3 | 120.7<br>6.3 | 111.0<br>5.7    |
| Tiruppuvanam   | .. ..<br>37 a<br>b             | 38.6<br>2.4 | 15.2<br>1.1 | 22.9<br>1.6 | 58.9<br>3.3 | 63.7<br>3.7 | 45.7<br>2.7 | 64.8<br>3.1 | 122.7<br>6.2 | 111.0<br>5.9    |
| Manamedurai    | .. ..<br>48 a<br>b             | 39.1<br>2.1 | 17.8<br>0.9 | 27.7<br>1.2 | 51.8<br>2.5 | 57.7<br>3.1 | 34.8<br>2.2 | 47.0<br>2.6 | 96.8<br>4.9  | 88.1<br>4.9     |
| Paramagudi     | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 43.9<br>2.3 | 18.0<br>1.2 | 20.6<br>1.6 | 56.6<br>3.3 | 45.5<br>2.8 | 18.8<br>1.6 | 39.4<br>2.7 | 75.4<br>4.6  | 76.7<br>4.9     |
| Pamban         | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 71.9<br>4.2 | 21.6<br>1.4 | 22.6<br>1.6 | 44.5<br>2.9 | 24.9<br>1.8 | 3.8<br>0.3  | 10.9<br>0.8 | 13.2<br>0.9  | 25.9<br>1.6     |
| Morkkulam      | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 62.2<br>3.3 | 18.8<br>1.4 | 30.2<br>1.8 | 46.0<br>2.7 | 31.0<br>1.8 | 3.3<br>0.3  | 8.4<br>0.7  | 20.3<br>1.4  | 27.7<br>2.1     |
| Ramanathapuram | .. ..<br>50 a<br>b             | 56.4<br>2.8 | 23.6<br>1.4 | 24.9<br>1.4 | 44.5<br>2.2 | 28.5<br>1.7 | 8.1<br>0.7  | 21.1<br>1.4 | 39.1<br>2.7  | 47.0<br>3.2     |



|                           |    |    |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Mudukulattur              | .. | .. | .. | 43.9 | 15.2 | 26.9 | 41.4 | 35.8 | 8.4  | 24.4 | 50.8  | 56.9  |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.2  | 1.1  | 1.8  | 2.6  | 2.2  | 0.8  | 1.6  | 3.0   | 3.8   |
| Kamudi                    | .. | .. | .. | 37.9 | 13.2 | 24.4 | 55.6 | 42.4 | 12.5 | 26.4 | 49.0  | 56.1  |
|                           |    |    |    | 1.9  | 0.8  | 1.5  | 3.1  | 2.9  | 1.1  | 1.9  | 3.3   | 4.0   |
| Tiruppattur               | .. | .. | .. | 35.3 | 11.7 | 14.5 | 53.6 | 71.4 | 59.9 | 70.4 | 131.3 | 130.8 |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.0  | 0.8  | 1.1  | 3.0  | 3.7  | 3.6  | 4.8  | 7.3   | 7.1   |
| Aruppukottai              | .. | .. | .. | 37.3 | 20.6 | 24.1 | 65.3 | 50.3 | 25.1 | 32.8 | 64.8  | 79.1  |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.0  | 1.0  | 1.4  | 3.3  | 3.3  | 1.9  | 2.1  | 4.3   | 4.7   |
| Wetrap                    | .. | .. | .. | 42.4 | 37.9 | 38.9 | 86.9 | 56.4 | 18.3 | 16.0 | 42.2  | 69.3  |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.0  | 1.7  | 2.0  | 4.6  | 4.3  | 1.9  | 1.4  | 2.8   | 4.0   |
| Srivilliputtur            | .. | .. | .. | 35.6 | 33.0 | 47.7 | 72.6 | 61.0 | 17.8 | 18.8 | 33.5  | 54.1  |
|                           |    |    |    | 1.8  | 1.8  | 2.2  | 4.3  | 4.1  | 1.8  | 1.6  | 2.3   | 3.8   |
| Sivakasi                  | .. | .. | .. | 31.5 | 20.8 | 28.5 | 68.3 | 58.7 | 17.3 | 17.0 | 48.3  | 62.0  |
|                           |    |    |    | 1.9  | 1.3  | 1.7  | 4.3  | 4.1  | 1.6  | 1.5  | 3.3   | 3.9   |
| Virudhunagar              | .. | .. | .. | 30.7 | 16.5 | 23.6 | 71.9 | 76.7 | 26.2 | 38.6 | 78.5  | 97.3  |
|                           |    |    |    | 1.7  | 1.9  | 1.4  | 3.6  | 4.6  | 2.3  | 2.0  | 4.5   | 5.4   |
| Sattur                    | .. | .. | .. | 33.5 | 16.5 | 27.4 | 66.3 | 56.4 | 10.9 | 18.0 | 41.9  | 51.8  |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.0  | 1.0  | 1.8  | 3.7  | 3.5  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 2.9   | 3.5   |
| Ramanathapuram (District) | .. | .. | .. | 45.2 | 20.5 | 26.1 | 57.6 | 49.2 | 21.8 | 31.4 | 62.3  | 69.9  |
|                           |    |    |    | 2.4  | 1.2  | 1.6  | 3.2  | 3.1  | 1.6  | 2.0  | 3.7   | 4.2   |

TABLE 1—contd

| Station.     | Number<br>of years<br>of data. | October. | Novem-<br>ber. | Decem-<br>ber. | Annual.       | Highest annual<br>rainfall as<br>per cent<br>of<br>normal<br>and<br>year**. |               | Lowest<br>annual<br>rainfall<br>as<br>per cent<br>of<br>normal<br>and<br>year**. |               | Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours. <sup>1</sup> |  | Date. |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---|---------------|--|---------------|---|--|-------|
|              |                                |          |                |                |               | (16)  | (17)          | (18)   | (19)          | Amount.<br>(m.m.)                           |  |       |
| Tiruvadanam  | .. ..                          | 50 a     | (12)<br>177.8  | (13)<br>215.1  | (14)<br>117.1 | (15)<br>868.6   | 194<br>(1923) | 56<br>(1908)   | (18)<br>387.3 | (19)<br>2nd December 1955.                  |  |       |
| Vattanam     | .. ..                          | 50 a     | 8.9<br>185.9   | 10.4<br>215.4  | 5.9<br>107.4  | 47.3<br>856.3   | 195<br>(1923) | 52<br>(1907)   | 489.4         | 2nd December 1955.<br>13th January 1923.    |  |       |
| Tiruvadanai  | .. ..                          | 49 a     | 9.0<br>180.9   | 10.5<br>196.1  | 6.0<br>85.1   | 46.3<br>846.8   | 175<br>(1924) | 48<br>(1907)   | 180.9         | 2nd December 1955.                          |  |       |
| Sivaganga .. | .. ..                          | 50 a     | 8.8<br>169.9   | 9.5<br>149.9   | 5.0<br>69.6   | 45.5<br>904.2   | 143<br>(1946) | 65<br>(1924)   | 188.7         | 30th September 1898                         |  |       |
| Tiruppuvanam | .. ..                          | 37 a     | 8.7<br>168.1   | 8.3<br>154.2   | 4.6<br>63.7   | 50.6<br>929.5   | 145<br>(1940) | 70<br>(1916)   | 121.9         | 1st December 1922                           |  |       |
| Manamedurai  | .. ..                          | 48 a     | 9.0<br>164.1   | 8.8<br>165.3   | 3.8<br>72.4   | 51.6<br>862.6   | 197<br>(1946) | 58<br>(1904)   | 189.2         | 16th November 1934.                         |  |       |
| Paramagudi   | .. ..                          | 50 a     | 8.3<br>156.7   | 7.8<br>172.0   | 3.8<br>83.1   | 44.3<br>806.7   | 159<br>(1946) | 55<br>(1904)   | 157.5         | 18th April 1905.                            |  |       |
| Pamban ..    | .. ..                          | 50 a     | 9.0<br>204.2   | 8.3<br>301.0   | 4.4<br>184.4  | 46.7<br>928.9   | 169<br>(1931) | 52<br>(1904)   | 348.0         | 13th December 1887                          |  |       |
| Morkulam     | .. ..                          | 60 a     | 9.1<br>189.5   | 12.8<br>234.2  | 8.8<br>122.2  | 46.2<br>793.8   | 174<br>(1920) | 49<br>(1950)   | 386.1         | 17th December 1877                          |  |       |
|              | .. ..                          | b        | 8.0            | 11.2           | 6.3           | 41.0  | ..            | ..   | ..            | ..  |  | ....  |

<sup>1</sup> Based on all available data up to 1960. \*\* Years are given in brackets

TABLE I—cont.

|                           |    |    |      |       |       |       |       |               |              |       |                     |
|---------------------------|----|----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------------|
| Ramanathapuram            | .. | .. | 50 a | 199.4 | 249.2 | 128.0 | 869.8 | 162<br>(1902) | 55<br>(1904) | 339.3 | 3rd December 1955.  |
| Mudukulathur              | .. | .. | b    | 9.0   | 10.5  | 5.8   | 42.9  | 167<br>(1940) | 53<br>(1926) | 216.7 | 3rd December 1955.  |
| Kamudi                    | .. | .. | b    | 8.7   | 9.1   | 4.2   | 41.1  | 157<br>(1932) | 52<br>(1926) | 194.3 | 2nd December 1955   |
| Tirupattur                | .. | .. | b    | 8.1   | 7.7   | 3.9   | 40.2  | 167<br>(1920) | 61<br>(1916) | 265.2 | 2nd December 1955.  |
| Aruppukkottai             | .. | .. | b    | 9.1   | 8.4   | 4.7   | 55.6  | 167<br>(1920) | 55<br>(1911) | 161.3 | 17th October 1954.  |
| Watrep                    | .. | .. | b    | 8.6   | 7.8   | 3.7   | 44.1  | 168<br>(1944) | 42<br>(1913) | 259.1 | 12th November 1952. |
| Sevilliputtur             | .. | .. | b    | 10.5  | 9.4   | 3.6   | 48.2  | 165<br>(1933) | 55<br>(1916) | 196.9 | 12th November 1945. |
| Sivakasi                  | .. | .. | b    | 10.1  | 9.2   | 3.7   | 46.7  | 179<br>(1940) | 61<br>(1913) | 196.9 | 24th October 1922.  |
| Virudhunagar              | .. | .. | b    | 9.9   | 7.9   | 3.7   | 45.1  | 157<br>(1940) | 62<br>(1935) | 176.5 | 30th November 1928  |
| Settur                    | .. | .. | b    | 9.2   | 7.4   | 3.5   | 46.6  | 145<br>(1902) | 56<br>(1913) | 188.0 | 8th May 1953.       |
| Ramanathapuram (District) | .. | .. | b    | 9.0   | 7.8   | 3.5   | 41.1  | 141<br>(1940) | 66<br>(1904) | ..    | ....                |
|                           |    |    | b    | 9.0   | 9.1   | 4.7   | 45.8  | ..            | ..           | ..    | ....                |

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

TABLE--2.

FREQUENCY OF ANNUAL RAINFALL IN THE DISTRICT.

(Data 1901-1950).

| <i>Range in mm.</i> | <i>Number of years.</i> | <i>Range in mm.</i> | <i>Number of years.</i> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 501 -- 600          | 1                       | 901 -- 1,000        | 8                       |
| 601 -- 700          | 7                       | 1,001 -- 1,100      | 2                       |
| 701 -- 800          | 13                      | 1,101 -- 1,200      | 4                       |
| 801 -- 900          | 15                      |                     |                         |

TABLE —3.

## NORMALS OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

(PAMBAN).

| Month.       | Mean Daily<br>Maximum<br>Temperature. | Mean Daily<br>Minimum<br>Temperature. | Highest Maximum<br>ever recorded. |              |      | Lowest Minimum<br>ever recorded. |      | Relative<br>Humidity. |                  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------|
|              | °C                                    | °C                                    | °C                                | Date.        | °C   | Date.                            | 0830 | Per cent.<br>(8)      | Per cent.<br>(9) |
| (1)          | (2)                                   | (3)                                   | (4)                               | (5)          | (6)  | (7)                              | 0830 | Per cent.<br>(8)      | Per cent.<br>(9) |
| January ..   | 28.1                                  | 23.6                                  | 33.3                              | 1902 Jan. 25 | 20.0 | 1957 Jan. 27                     | 82   | 83                    | 83               |
| February ..  | 29.3                                  | 23.9                                  | 33.3                              | 1906 Feb. 28 | 19.4 | 1939 Feb. 13                     | 79   | 80                    | 80               |
| March ..     | 31.3                                  | 24.8                                  | 35.0                              | 1953 Mar. 29 | 20.6 | 1959 Mar. 17                     | 76   | 77                    | 77               |
| April ..     | 32.8                                  | 26.4                                  | 37.2                              | 1930 Apr. 27 | 20.6 | 1949 Apr. 1                      | 76   | 77                    | 77               |
| May ..       | 33.1                                  | 27.3                                  | 36.7                              | 1923 May 21  | 21.1 | 1891 May 30                      | 77   | 78                    | 78               |
| June ..      | 32.3                                  | 26.8                                  | 37.2                              | 1913 June 11 | 20.6 | 1897 June 18                     | 75   | 79                    | 79               |
| July ..      | 31.9                                  | 26.3                                  | 35.0                              | 1951 July 10 | 20.7 | 1959 July 31                     | 76   | 80                    | 80               |
| August ..    | 31.6                                  | 26.1                                  | 34.4                              | 1945 Aug. 2  | 22.2 | 1954 Aug. 28                     | 76   | 80                    | 80               |
| September .. | 31.8                                  | 26.9                                  | 35.0                              | 1940 Sep. 25 | 20.6 | 1930 Sep. 4                      | 77   | 81                    | 81               |
| October ..   | 31.1                                  | 25.4                                  | 35.0                              | 1940 Oct. 4  | 21.1 | 1891 Oct. 23                     | 80   | 83                    | 83               |
| November ..  | 29.6                                  | 24.6                                  | 33.3                              | 1944 Nov. 5  | 21.7 | 1957 Nov. 4                      | 83   | 84                    | 84               |
| December ..  | 28.1                                  | 23.8                                  | 33.9                              | 1906 Dec. 29 | 18.9 | 1953 Dec. 10                     | 85   | 85                    | 85               |
| Annual ..    | 30.9                                  | 25.4                                  | ..                                | ..           | ..   | ..                               | 79   | 81                    | 81               |

+ Hours L.S.T.



## CHAPTER II — HISTORY.

*Pre-history* :—The stone artefacts found near the coast in the Ramanathapuram District prove that the district had been the home of Palaeolithic man. The palaeolithic man appears to have wandered in search of quartzite which was most suitable for him to make stone instruments on which he depended for his security and procurement of food. Some quantity<sup>1</sup> of quartzite stone instruments have been traced in Ramanathapuram. In the coastal regions of the District ridges of granular quartzose rock of metamorphic character occur<sup>2</sup>. This perhaps attracted the palaeolithic man to this region. The existence of quartz coupled with the existence of a number of lagoons were factors conducive for the habit of palaeolithic man. It should be noted here that in the Tirunelveli District, a contiguous region, palaeolithic instruments are not to be traced and this can be attributed to the absence of quartz<sup>3</sup>.

The nomadic palaeolithic man, it is inferred, took shelter in natural caves and caverns. Such caves exist in places like Kudimiamalai and Sevavimalai in Pudukkottai which once formed a part of the Ramanathapuram kingdom and now lies immediately next to the borders of the District.

Climatic and geological changes drove the pre-historic man from the coastal areas in Ramanathapuram<sup>4</sup>. A coral reef high and dry on Rameswaram proves to be a comparatively later upheaval. Bruce Foote believes that this reef connected Ramanathapuram (main-land) with Ceylon once<sup>5</sup>. The transformation from the palaeolithic age to that of Neolithic age was gradual and conclusive in this area. The pre-historic man continued to make Ramanathapuram area his abode in neolithic age also. In this age man began to use cherts stone for arrow heads, blades and flakes. Such microlithic instruments were found in abundance at Surangudi a place now lying in the Tirunelveli District on the banks of river Vaipar on the southern border of the Ramanathapuram District. The material found here is heavily stained with red hydrated ferric oxide and consists of chert and quartzite flakes, blades and other such lagments<sup>6</sup>. In the Ramanathapuram District itself neolithic remains, in the form of burial urns and menhirs have been traced at Manamadurai. These burial sites are pointers to the existence

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<sup>1</sup> V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar; *Pre-historic India* 1956—Page 45.

<sup>2</sup> A. C. Logan—*Old Chipped Stone in India*, 1906—Pages 17–18.

<sup>3</sup> V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, *op. cit* page 45.

<sup>4</sup> V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, *op. cit.*, page 62.

<sup>5</sup> A. C. Logan—*Op. cit.*, pages 17–18.

<sup>6</sup> F. E. Zenner and B. Allchin, "The Microlithic sites of Tirunelveli District"—*'Ancient India'*, 1956.

of neolithic settlements. A number of caves and caverns and other neolithic monuments have been traced<sup>1</sup>. Many neolithic remains have been traced on the burial sites at Pudukkottai. This area consists of miles and miles of such burial sites usually on river beds. The cairn and the cist type have been found in this area<sup>2</sup>. These megalithic monuments are usually found on an elevated ground<sup>3</sup> consisting of quartz gravel. The cist is often surrounded by a circle of laterite or granite five to eight feet in diameter. Most of these urns contained small pots and bronze vessels, chank shells and weapons like *valaris*. In the neolithic age three types of burials were practised in this area, namely grave burial, urn burial, and burials in sub-terraenean chambers.

The memory of such burials survived, if not the practice itself, up to the 12th or 13th century A.D. and they are referred to in the works of the Tamil poet Ottakuthanar (*Kulotunga Cholan Ula*)<sup>4</sup>. In the sangam work *Manimegalai* (1st or 2nd Century A.D.) there is clear reference to the various types of burials<sup>5</sup>.

**Early History :—**The present Ramanathapuram District in the early days formed a part of the traditional Marava country. The Marava country also included Pudukkottai, and portions of the present Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. The Marava who are found in large numbers in this area seem to have been an indigenous tribe. The numerous references to the Maravas are found in the Sangam works like *Purananooru* and *Silappadhikaram*. It is clear that from very early days they were recognised as a warrior class. The above works allude to their war like qualities<sup>6</sup>. But there is no evidence to show in this group of literature that they ever had a separate and exclusive kingdom of their own in the early days. They refer to them as inhabitants of the *Palai* (desert, dry) land, one of the five types of land described in the Snagam literature. Their martial qualities were the result of their struggle for existence in an area where there was little scope for agriculture. Even today Ramanathapuram remains as an area very similar to the *Palai* land described in literature.

How the Maravas came to occupy that territory remains as one of the thorny problems of history. The recent theory connects them with the Malavar of ancient Kongu Nad. The Sangam works refer to the Malavars who were free lances who were among the important races that occupied Tamilnad, in the first century A. D. In the later times they moved down into the south into the Pandya and the Chola

<sup>1</sup> V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, *op. cit.*, page 72.

<sup>2</sup> *Cairn*:— A barrow made of heaped up rubble stone, *cist*:—A grave built of huge stone statues.

<sup>3</sup> V. D. Krishnaswamy—"Megalithic types-South India" *Ancient India*, 1948.

<sup>4</sup> Pudukkottai Manual, Vol. No. II—Part I, 1940, pages 520-25.

<sup>5</sup> கடுவோர், இடுவோர், தொடு குழிப் படுப்பார், தாழ் விடைப்போர், கழியிற் கலிற்போர்—மணிமேகலை.

<sup>6</sup> Edgar Thurston—*Castes and Tribes in South India*—1909—Volume V, page 23.



countries. The Maravas are said to have been one of the branches of the Malavar race<sup>1</sup>. *Purananooru* describes a Kongu king of Kuthiraimalai (near Salem) as a Marava<sup>2</sup>.

The present Ramanathapuram District was an integral part of the Pandya Kingdom<sup>3</sup> and with the decline of that power it began to evolve itself into a separate entity. When the Pandya power was at its zenith, the local chiefs of the area that now belongs to the Ramanathapuram District, were administering the territory in a tributary capacity. This fact is amply borne out by the numerous epigraphical evidences, in the form of grants to temples in places like Aruppukottai, Kovilangulam, Pallimadam Perungurunai and others<sup>4</sup>.

There is also a reference to the Pandya found in an Asokan Edict wherein the Emperor claims to have achieved a moral "conquest" over the Pandyas<sup>5</sup>. Megasthenes mentions some special features about the administration of the Pandyan Kingdom in the South<sup>6</sup>. This testifies the fact that the Pandyas were definitely in possession of the southern part of the Peninsula during the period of Asoka (273 B.C.). Arthashastra of Kautilya and *Mahavamsa*, the Ceylonese chronicle, also make mention of the Pandyas.

But the historian's main stay for the Pandya history is the Sangam works which are generally attributed to the period 100 A.D. - 250 A.D.<sup>7</sup>. Epics like the *Silappadhikaram* and *Manimekalai*, works of moderate length like *Maduraikanchi*, and shorter works like *Purananooru*, *Ahananooru* and *Paripadal*, have been classified as Sangam works<sup>8</sup>. The Velvikudi and Sinnamanur grants fill up a few of the gaps in history and helps us to obtain a somewhat cogent picture of the period.

1. Dr. M. Arokiasamy, Kongu Country, 1956, pages 42-43.

2. *Puram* 198.

3. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri.—The Pandyan Kingdom, 1929, page 25 "The normal extent of the Pandyan Kingdom in the Sangam Age corresponded to the modern districts of Tinnevely, Ramanad and Madura with the Southern Vellar for its northern boundary".

4. V. Rangacharya, A topographical list of inscriptions of Madras Presidency Vol. II—1919, pages 1159-1198.

5. He has achieved this moral conquest repeatedly both here and among the peoples living beyond the borders of his kingdom to the South among..... the Pandyas". Rock Edict XIII—Mekeon—The Edicts of Asoka, 1962, page 27.

6. Majumdar, R. C. The Age of Imperial Unity, 1953, page. 229.

7. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri—The Pandian Kingdom, 1929, page 36, 81-82.

8. V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, Studies in Tamil Literature and History— 1929, page 17.

**Early Pandyas :** The earliest Pandya king mentioned in the Sangam works is Mudukkudumi. He seems to have been an ardent patron of vedic cults like *Yagnas* that he eventually acquired the prefix *Palyagasalai* (patron of) many sacrificial halls. He was succeeded by Nedunchezhan, the hero of the battle of Talayalangam. From the frequent mention of his name in *Maduraiakanchi*, the Sinnamanur plates and many other anthologies, it is surmised that Nedunchezhan was one of the outstanding monarchs in the family of the early Pandyas. Soon after his accession while still very young, he successfully met the combined forces of the Cholas and the Cheras and repelled them. His policy of aggressive expansion extended the Pandya borders further. The last of the early Pandyas was Ugraperuvaludi or Ugrapandya. It was during his reign that the Kalabhras invaded the country.

There are diverse opinion on the Kalabhra invasion and on their identity. It is said that they, having got dislodged by the Kadambas from their earlier home in the confines of Saravana Belgola moved further east and set up a kingdom which included the modern Bangalore, Kolar and the Chittor districts and this area came to be called Kalavanad. From there they pushed themselves into the Chola and the Pandya kingdoms and overthrew the Tamil monarchies<sup>1</sup>. It was only in the sixth century Pandyas were able to rise up under Kodungon and wrenched their country from the Kalabhra grip. The three centuries that followed the Pandya restoration have been called the Age of the First Empire. Though there are a number of sources of information for this period viz., Velvikudi grants, the smaller Sinnamanur plates, the larger Sinnamanur plates, the Madras Museum plates of Jatavarman, the Anamalai stone inscriptions and the Aiyvar Malai inscriptions, they are lacking in details with regard to the political history of the period. But a coherent geneological list is obtained for the period starting from the end of Kalabhra rule, 590 A.D. to 920 A.D.

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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| 1. Kodungon                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 590—620  |
| 2. Maravarman Avanisulamani       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 620—645. |
| 3. Sendan (Jayantavarman)         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 645—670. |
| 4. Arikesari Parankusa Maravarman | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 670—700. |
| 5. Koccadaiyan                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 700—730. |
| 6. Maravarman Rajasimha I         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 730—765. |
| 7. Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 765—815. |
| Srimara Srivallaba                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 815—862. |
| 1. Varaguna Varma                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 862—880. |
| 10. Parantaka Viranarayan         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 880—900. |
| 11. Maravarman Rajasimhan II      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | A.D. 900—920. |

1. K. R. Venkataraman, "A Note on the Kalabhras", Paper read before the Archaeological Society of the South India, on 20th December 1955.

Kodungon (590—620 A.D.) who effected the Pandya restoration, subdued his rival claimants and paved the way for a long and firm Pandya rule. His son, Maravarman Avanisulamani 620—645 A.D.) maintained his patrimony intact and bequeathed it to his son and successor Jayantavarman (Sendan) himself adding little to it. The growing might of the Pandyas was given expression to by Sendan's (A.D. 645—670) success over his Chera contemporary. The next ruler was Arikesari Parankusa Maravarman (670—700), whose reign marked the beginning of a protracted conflict with the nascent Pallava power in the northern part of Tamilnad. The Paravas of the Pandya coast were taken to task by him for their intransigence. He worsted the Chera ruler in a number of battles and the conflict culminated in the great battles at Nannilam, where again the Pandya emerged triumphant. Arikesari was also victorious over the Kerala King and he captured him with his near relatives and forces<sup>1</sup>. By virtue of his matrimonial alliance with the Chola royal family, he was able to add some more territory to his kingdom. The kingdom Arikesari Parankusa Maravarman handed down to his son Koccadaiyan was larger and more powerful than the one he inherited.

Koccadaiyan also known as Ranadhira (700—730 A.D.) during his reign, undertook a punitive expedition against the Ay Velir, a mountain chief, who was ruling the hilly country between modern Tirunelveli and Trivandrum. Marudur (which may be Thirupudai) was the venue of his encounter with the Ay chieftain Koccadaiyan was succeeded by his son Maravarman Rajasimha I (730-765 A.D.) who is accredited with victories over his contemporary, Pallava Nandivarman and Kongu rulers<sup>2</sup>. He continued his father's policy of territorial aggrandizement and brought Malakongam in the region of the present Thanjavur District, within the Pandyan fold. In his reign the Pandyan kingdom extended up to Kodumudi in the Kongu Nad<sup>3</sup>. The Malava King who was reduced to subjection by Rajasimha I gave his daughter in marriage to the Pandyan King<sup>4</sup>. The successor on the throne Nedunjadayan, was his son by the Malava Queen. Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan (765-815 A.D.), the son and successor of Rajasimha I, also constantly strove to push the borders of his kingdom further and in the process came into conflict with the Kongu ruler and the King of Venad. The Pandyan kingdom at his death extended beyond the modern Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Salem and Coimbatore districts. Jatila Parantaka's son, Sri-mara Sri Vallabha proved a true son of the great father by worsting

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1. K. A. N. Sastri, *The Pandyan Kingdom*, 1929, page 52.

2. M. Arokiaswamy, *The Kongu Country*, 1956, page 160.

3. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, *A History of South India*, 1958, page 180.

4. R. C. Majumdar, *The Classical Age*, 1954, page 288.

a formidable confederacy of Gangas, Pallavas, Cholas and Kalingas at Kudamuku (Kumbakonam). Ceylon had to acknowledge his supremacy after a crushing defeat and her ruler Sena I (831-851) fled. "Sena II counter invaded the Pandyan Country and took possession of the capital, crowned the Pandya king who had sought his help and returned to Ceylon. The traditional dates of Sena I and Sena II are A.D. 846 to 866 and A.D. 866 to 901. We have assigned to Srimara roughly A.D. 815 to 862 so that the counter invasion from Ceylon could fall in the reign of the successor of Srimara. But it is not possible to accept the arrangement if we propose to identify the Pandya prince who appealed to Sena II and the Mayapandya who was conquered by Srimara. It has been pointed out that a correction of twenty four years must be introduced into Mahavamsa Chronology of this period in the light of the established dates of South Indian History with reference to the early Cholas of the Vijayala line. This correction will give the dates A.D. 822 to 842 and A.D. 842 to 877 roughly for the reigns of Sena I and Sena II and thus reconcile the Chronology of the narrative in the Mahavamsa with that of Srimara's reign as fixed by independent evidence."<sup>1</sup> Srimara however was not destined to be an all conquering soldier for he was defeated eventually by Pallava Nandivarman III (844-866) at Tellaru near Wandivash. The Pandya lost much of his territory, since the victorious Pallava marched as far as Vaigai. The next ruler Varaguna Varma (862-880) had to face the confederate forces of the Pallavas, Cholas and the Gangas at Thiruppurampayam and was defeated. The success of the enemies at this period retarded the growth of the Pandya power. Soon after the battle Varaguna Varma died, childless. He was succeeded by his brother Sri Parantaka alias Viranarayana. He had to defend himself from the neighbouring kings including the ruler of Kongunad who threatened to overpower him. His son Maravarman Rajasimha II, was the next ruler. During his reign Parantaka Chola I, sought to crush the Pandya power. To forestall him Rajasimha took the offensive with the help of Kassapa V ruler of Ceylon, who sent an army and invaded the Chola country. The issue was decided at the battle of Velur in the Chola's favour and the victorious Chola forces promptly occupied Madurai, while Rajasimha II fled to Ceylon, crest fallen from where he crossed over to Chera country. The occupation of Madurai by the Chola forces heralded the Chola domination of the Pandya country that was to last for three centuries.

*The Chola Domination* :—The Pandyas did not get acquiesced to the Chola overlordship and were in a perpetual state of revolt. Marava country was the venue of many a bloody battle between the Cholas and the Pandyas who were trying to unyoke themselves from the Imperial Cholas. The Cholas were also particular about controlling the passage to Ceylon which was in the Marava country.

1. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, *The Pandyan Kingdom*, 1929, pages 70 and 71.

Parantaka Chola, however, was too pre-occupied with his enemies from the northern side viz, the Rashtrakutas (Krishna III) to make any efforts to consolidate his gains in the Pandya country. After defeating the Chola, Krishna III, marched across the Marava country and erected a pillar of victory at Rameswaram<sup>1</sup>. After the death of Parantaka Chola, Vira Pandya defeated his successor, probably Gandaraditya and claimed independence<sup>2</sup>. In this attempt the Pandya was supported by the Ceylon ruler Mahinda IV. Sundarachola Parantaka II (957-973), the successor of Gandaraditya desired to reimpose Chola authority on Pandya country and defeated Virapandya in two battles. In the second battle Virapandya lost his life. A number of inscriptions referring to Vira Pandya are found in the Ramanathapuram District<sup>3</sup>. Though Sundara Chola brought the Pandya kingdom again into the Chola fold, it was only during the reign of Rajaraja Chola that their position was consolidated. Early in his reign, rulers of Pandya, Kerala and Ceylon joined together against Rajaraja. In two campaigns, Rajaraja vanquished the Pandyas and the Kerala kings by attacking them at Kandalur and Vilinam. In the third campaign he overran the northern part of Ceylon and forced the ruler Mahinda V to flee. Ceylon was made a Chola province with Polonnaruva (Pulavannur) as the capital<sup>4</sup>. Pandya country was also made a Chola province and Rajaraja appointed one of his sons as the Viceroy of the Province. Madurai being the headquarters of the Viceroyalty, Pandya country was henceforth known as Rajaraja Chola Mandalam. Rajaraja used the Marava country as a spring board from whence he could conduct his devastating raids on the island, Ceylon. Rajendra Chola (1012-1044) appointed his son as Viceroy to the Pandya country with the title Chola Pandya. The royal control over the provinces was both firm and regular. But during his tenth regnal year, the Pandyas attempted to rise again and Rajendra Chola re-imposed his authority with a firm hand. The adherents of the Pandyas maintained cordial relationship with the Ceylon rulers who were also victims of the Chola imperialism. Rajadhiraja, the son of Rajendra led an expedition against Vikramabahu, the ruler of Ceylon and defeated him. Rajendra was succeeded by his son Rajadhiraja I (1044). Almost every one of the Chola kings who ruled between the period of Rajendra I and Rajendra II had to defeat the Pandyas afresh and re-impose their authority. Perhaps Sundara Pandya was the moving spirit behind all such risings against the Cholas<sup>5</sup>. During the reign of Kulotunga I, who ascended the throne in 1070 A.D., the Pandya

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<sup>1</sup> K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, A History of South India, 1958, page 172.

<sup>2</sup> K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, The Pandyan Kingdom, 1929, page 100.

<sup>3</sup> Epigraphic Indica—page 280.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*—Page 173.

<sup>5</sup> K. A. Nilakanta Sastri—The Cholas, 1935—An inscription at Pallimadam in Ramanathapuram refers to him—See Ramachari's inscriptions of the Madras Presidency, Vol. II—1919.

dynasty, taking advantage of the administrative anarchy that followed Kulotunga's accession, tried to assert themselves. Ultimately, they not only defied the Cholas, but considerably undermined their authority. Jatavarman Sri Vallabha, one of the descendants of the earlier Pandyas, seem to have been the person who restored the Pandyas' greatness. A considerable number of inscriptions of his period are still extant in the Ramanathapuram District<sup>1</sup>. The abundant references in these inscriptions to canal sluices, water bunds and other irrigational facilities attributed to the benevolent reign of Parakrama Pandya and to the grain measure named 'Vira Pandya' testify that Parakrama Pandya and Vira-Pandya were the two predecessors of Jatavarman Sri Vallabha or his co-regents who contributed much to the development of agriculture<sup>2</sup>. The Hoysalas with the instigation of the Cholas marched southwards towards Rameswaram. Vishnuvardhan, the Hoysala General fought at least one battle with the troops of the Pandyas of Madurai. However, no permanent results were achieved.

*Pandyas of the Second Empire* :—Though Jatavarman Sri Vallabha suffered a defeat in the hands of Kulotunga Chola, he continued to rule independently though with a diminished strength. He was succeeded by Maravarman Thirupuvana Chakravarthi Parakrama Pandya who is known to have been reigning in 1060-61, was a contemporary of Kulotunga Chola I. This Pandya successfully defied any further imposition of Chola authority. This fact is evidenced by an inscription found on the South wall of the Central shrine in the *Sundareswara* temple at Aruppukkottai, Ramanathapuram District<sup>3</sup>. The next ruler Jatavarman Parantaka, followed a policy of expansion. He defeated the rulers of Chera and South Kalinga countries and annexed these areas to the Pandyan kingdom.

In 1170, the Pandya country became the scene of a fierce and protracted internal warfare which arose on account of a disputed succession to the throne. Parakrama Pandya and Kulasekara were the two claimants to the Pandya throne. The ruler of Ceylon, Parakramabhahu played an important role in this war. When Parakrama Pandya realised that his claim to the throne was challenged by Kulasekara, he sent a frantic appeal to Parakramabhahu, who with great alacrity agreed to help. But before a force could be despatched from Ceylon, Kulasekara overpowered Parakrama Pandya, captured him with his family and put all of them to death. Assuming the title, Pandyan Emperor, he ascended the throne at Madurai.

1. An inscription in a cave temple at Kunnakkudi, a village in the Tiruppattur Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District refers to his name—See Ramacharis' inscriptions of Madras Presidency, Vol. II—1919, page 1185.

2. J. Duncan M. Derrett.—The Hoysalas, Madras, 1957, pages 52-53.

3. Rangachari, V.—Inscriptions of Madras Presidency—Vol. II, 1919, page 1159.

*Invasion from Ceylon* :—A powerful force was despatched under the famous General Lankapura Dandanatha. Only when the army reached Mahatittha (Manhot) from the capital, the information about Kulasekara's audacity was received. Parakramabhahu ordered the continuation of his plans so that the kingdom might be wrenched from Kulasekara and given to Parakramapandya's son. After a voyage lasting a day and a night the Ceylonese army sighted the coast and effected a landing inspite of opposition at Talabbilla, then a thriving port on the Pandya Coast<sup>1</sup>.

Lankapura, after a number of battles in which the Pandya forces were routed, captured Rameswaram. He marched down to the place which now goes by the name Pamban and a haven named Kundukala fell in his hands<sup>2</sup>. He also attacked and defeated a local chieftain, Alavanda Perumal who was then camping at the village Vadah<sup>3</sup>. Realising the magnitude of the danger to the throne, Kulasekara gathered all the forces he could muster and attacked the Ceylon General in his camp. In a hotly contested battle, Lankapura utterly routed the Pandya forces, persued and burnt their camp. Lankapura then occupied Vadah (Vedakau) and from there launched a surprise attack on Deivyapattinam (Devipatnam as it is now called) and from there marched to Siriyavala. After his successful march he returned by way of Kalaiyarkoil—Paramagudi road and took two places Anivalakkotta and the fortress of Nettur<sup>4</sup>. Lankapura made these two places the headquarters of his activity. At this stage, information reached Lankapura, that Vira Pandya, son of Parakrama Pandya had taken refuge in the Malavan country. Sending the information on to his master Parakramabhahu in Ceylon, Lankapura marched on to Periakulam and captured Melamangalam and Kilamangalam. But he handed over these places back to the respective chieftains and returned to his headquarters. From there he proceeded to Manavira Madurai (Manamadurai) and defeated the chieftains who held the place. Then he marched on to Anjukottai near Tiruvadanai and took the place and also the two ports in the vicinity of Tondi and Pasipattanam. From there Lankapura moved on further to Kurundangudi and from there to Tiruvekamba

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1. This place is identified with Pulliyadisalai, two miles east of Gandamadana Parvata, near the town of Rameswaram. It is interesting to note the local tradition about a Kandyan Monarch who built the *sanctum-sanctorum* of Rameswaram temple. This is evidenced by certain inscriptions in the sanctum itself. This ruler of Ceylon brought all the stones required for the building from Ceylon itself. The ships carrying the hewn stones landed at Talabilla and from there the stones were carried to the site of construction, since in the island Rameswaram itself proper stone was not to be found. The unused stones are still said to be in the harbour at Pulliyadisalai.

2. This place is now known as Kundugal and is just two miles south of Pamban. This place is now used by the Southern Railway as both dry and wet docks for the repair of these steam launches.

3. Vedalai, 2 miles south-west of Mantapam Camp Railway Station.

4. Nettur is about five miles west of Ilaiyangudi and may be about seven or eight miles north-west of Paramagudi Railway Station.

(perhaps the present Tiruvenganpattu)<sup>1</sup>. The chieftain of the place, Malava Chakravarthi, resisting the intrusion and refusing to submit, retired to Semponmari in the Tiruppattur Taluk (Ramanathapuram District). Lankapura then advanced upon Semponmari, took it within half a day. The Pandyan country, up to the Chola country borders, thus came under the sway of this intrepid islander, Lankapura. The Vaisyas (Vessas) and Muhammadans of the place brought presents to him. He restored Malava Chakravarthi to his hereditary possessions and retired to his headquarters. At this juncture, another rival chieftain dispossessed Malava Chakravarthi of Siriyavala (Siruvayal). Lankapura intervened and effected a conciliation between the two. He then, in order to win the good will of the people, set about restoring two tanks that were in a dilapidated condition at Rajasinha Mahala (Rajasinga Mangalam) and Valugama (Valugrama, Valandaravail).

Thus for a time the whole of Marava country from Rameswaram to Tiruppattur came under the sway of Lankapura. From the references to this invasion in *Mahavamsa*, the sinhalese epic, it would appear that Lankapura really had effective control over the areas he conquered. His intervention in the Malava Chakravarthi's dispute and his order to restore the two tanks also support this view.

Kulasekara, meanwhile, had regained his poise and with a strong force he had recruited from the Kongu and Thenpandinadu (Tirunelveli) challenged Lankapura. The King of Ceylon, Parakramabahu in order to strengthen the hands of his General, despatched another force under the generalship of Jagad Vijaya. He landed in the Marava country and established his headquarters at Anivalakki. Lankapura set out and fought an indecisive battle at Mangalam<sup>2</sup>. He pushed forward to Siruvayal and there defeated a confederacy of the local chieftains under the leadership of Pundakonda Nadalavar and burnt down his two storeyed palace. Meanwhile Jagad Vijaya, the other General, had marched west towards Manavira Madura (Manamadurai) and had taken a number of places and returned to Nettur. The two armies made a combined advance against Kulasekara. <sup>3</sup> Kulasekara, by then, had moved down to the city of Rajina<sup>4</sup> (unidentified still). The Ceylonese forces gained a thumping victory over the Pandya and the city fell in their hands. <sup>4</sup> Kulasekara fled to the country of the Tondaman<sup>5</sup> and appealed to the Cholas for armed assistance. This marked the end of the first part of the campaign of the Ceylonese Generals<sup>6</sup>.

1. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, *South India and her Muhammadan Invaders*, 1921, page 7.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Perhaps the chieftains of Andaman who had this title prior to the rise of Pudukkottai Tondaman.

4. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, *South India and her Muhammadan Invaders*, 1921, page 7.



Lankapura then marched towards Madurai and installed his candidate Vira Pandya on the throne. Having achieved his main aim, he began to chase Kulasekara. He proceeded to Tiruppattur along the main road from Madurai. Having captured Tiruppattur, he chased the garrison from there. Ponnamaravathi was next to fall and there he made known to the public by beat of drums that his intention was to protect the local populace. He returned to Madurai and obeying the imperial behest from Ceylon, began to make elaborate arrangements to celebrate the coronation of Vira Pandya. He appointed three chieftains from the Marava country, Malava Chakravarthi, Malavarayar and Talaiyur Nadalvar to perform the duties of *Lambakanna*<sup>1</sup>. All the vassal rulers of the Pandyas were also invited so as to renew their allegiance.

Kulasekara, meanwhile, succeeded in getting help from the Tondaman and with the vast forces which were thus left at his disposal, he poured down on the Marava country and captured Mangalam in the Sattur Taluk. He immediately fortified the place. In the same flush of victory, he captured Srivilliputtur. Then he collected a vast force from Tirunelveli, added to it by the armies of the two Kongus, his allies took possession of the fortress of Santeneri<sup>2</sup>. But the Ceylon General again defeated the Pandya.

The Chola monarch Rajadhiraja grew sympathetic towards the Pandya and sent a force under the command of a chief named Pallavaraya by sea to Tondi and Pasi. Lankapura, getting inkling of the Chola forces marched from Kalaiyarkoil where he was then camping, to Kilamilar in the Tirumayam Taluk. In the battle that took place near Kilamilar, the allied forces failed to overpower Lankapura. Then the Ceylon forces, with their two generals, embarked to Ceylon. Lankapura ordered Vira Pandya to use 'Kahapana', a Ceylonese coin, with the superscription of 'Parakramabahu', in the Pandya country. The Chola inscriptions, however, state that the Ceylonese generals suffered a severe defeat in the hands of the Cholas and that it was this defeat that warranted their departure<sup>3</sup>. Prof. Sastri observes that this account of the Ceylonese victory is very one-sided. For, the Ceylonese generals are said to have given presents to several Chiefs in the Pandya country and these look like bribes offered to win them over, from their allegiance to Kulasekara<sup>4</sup>. Thus the success against Kulasekara was not always won on the field of battle. And especially after the Chola intervention, it would seem that the Ceylonese

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1. These three men belonged to the Lambakanna class. The office meant the chiefship of the Lambakannas (Those who have pendent ear-lobes).

2. This is identified as a place called Sattaleri in the inscriptions of the Ramana-thapuram Taluk.

3. Annual Report of Epigraphy, No. 20 of 1899, South Indian Inscriptions—Volume I, No. 456.

4. K. A. N. Sastri, *The Cholas*, Volume II, Part I, 1937, Page 100.

roops actually lost ground and sustained defeats and it may be suspected that the evacuation of the Pandya country by Lankapura was not an entirely voluntary retirement.

Even after so many set backs Kulasekara continued to fight. But before he could finish his task death intervened. His son Vikramapandya, carried on the fight and with the help of the Chola King, Kulotunga III, ousted Virapandya from the throne and firmly established himself.

The Ceylonese occupation of the Marava country lasted for a few years only. Even to-day there are signs of this in the Marava country. The Ceylonese general Lankapura has immortalised his name by his interest in works of peace reflected in his repairs to temples, tanks and construction of roads. The invasion must have made a deep impression in the minds of the people. Even to-day the local legends are full of stories, some of them fantastic about the Ceylonese occupation. Ceylonese coins are picked up every now and then from a particular site, on which it is said, stood the city Parakrama Pattinam built at the command of Parakramabahu.

*Later Pandyas* :—At this period there were more than one Pandya but all of them owed their allegiance to the Pandya of Madurai. After the restoration also, the Marava country formed a part of the Pandya Empire. Marco Polo refers to this fact in his travelogues. The numerous inscriptions found in the Ramanathapuram District testify the fact that the Marava country was under the Pandya rule till 1311 when Malik Kafur invaded Madurai<sup>1</sup>.

Vikramapandya was succeeded by Jatavarma Kulasekara I who reigned from A.D. 1190 to 1216. In A.D. 1216, Maravarma Sundarapandya (1216—1238) came to the throne. He won brilliant victories over the Cholas and transferred considerable territory of the Cholas to that of his. His successor was Maravarman Sundara Pandya II (A.D. 1238—1255). Not much of information is available about this ruler. The next ruler was Jatavarma Sundara Pandya (1255—1268). Jatavarma was a great soldier and was able to dictate terms to the Cholas, Cheras and the Hoysalas. The Pallavas also bowed to his rule. The ruler of Ceylon gave his daughter in marriage to this Pandya so as to win his good will. The Yadavas of Devagiri also fell victims to his sword.

Maravarma Kulasekara the next ruler ascended the throne in 1268 and reigned till 1311<sup>2</sup>. During his reign the four princes, namely, Jatavarma Sundara Pandya II, Mahavarma Vikrama Pandya, Jatavarma Vira Pandya II and Jatavarma Sundara Pandya III who came to the power in 1276, 1286, 1296 and 1303 respectively, co-operated with him in the administration of the empire. It was in his period that Marco Polo visited Tamilnad

1. V. Rangachari, *Inscriptions of the Madras Presidency—Volume No. II—1919*, pages 1159 to 1197.

2. B. C. Majumdar, *The Delhi Sultanate*, Bombay, 1960, Pages 230, 244.

in A.D. 1292. Besides, Wassaf, a Muslim historian has also left an account of the kingdom. Mahavamsa of Ceylon refers to a Pandya invasion of Ceylon during his period.

*Muslim Invasion*:—After Maravarma Kulasekara's death, the Pandya kingdom was plunged into a fratricidal war which ultimately warranted the ruin of the kingdom. The two claimants to the throne were Jatavarma Sundara Pandya III, the legitimate son of the former king and Jatavarma Virapandya, the illegitimate son of the same ruler. When Virapandya overpowered Sundara Pandya and occupied the throne, the latter appealed to Malik Kafur, the General of the Delhi Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji, who was then on a plundering expedition to the south.

Sundara Pandya's appeal gave Malik Kafur an excuse for an invasion and he marched down to Dindigul. He marched by road to Periakulam as far as Vathalagundu. From there he marched upon Madurai, and occupied it without any resistance as Virapandya had already fled. Madurai was made a victim of the vandalism of the Sultan's army. The Muslim force then marched across the Marava country, leaving desolation in its wake and arrived at Rameswaram. The ports near Rameswaram contained considerably large Mohammedan population and Amirkusru in his work *Ashika* refers to this fact. From the evidences available, it is surmised that he founded either at Rameswaram itself or on the main land, a mosque which he named after his master Ala-ud-din Khilji<sup>1</sup>.

There is also a different view expressed by Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri. He holds that the invasion of Malik Kafur did not take place on the appeal of the Pandiyan claimant to the throne but quite independent of it<sup>2</sup>.

After leaving two garrisons, one at Madurai and another one at Kannanur, capital of Hoysalas<sup>3</sup>, to maintain the Sultan's hold over the conquered territories he returned to Delhi. The Pandyas retired from Madurai once for all. However, it should be remembered that the occupation of Madurai at best, meant only the occupation of Madurai and its immediate confines and not the whole of Pandya kingdom<sup>4</sup>. A power which had thoroughly alienated the sympathy of the local population by its religious fanaticism revealed in its iconoclasm and pillage, could not hope to be the heirs to the Pandya Empire. Thus the Marava country, but for the havoc wrought by the forces of Malik Kafur, remained unaffected by the Muslim invasion and the rule of hereditary chieftains continued.

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1. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, *South India and her Mohammedan Invaders*, 1921, page 101.

2. R. C. Majumdar, *The Struggle for Empire*, Bombay, 1957, p. 259.

3. Now a suburb of Samayapuram, 9 miles north of Tiruchirappalli.

4. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, *South India and her Mohammedan Invaders*, 1921, page 157.

**The Madurai Sultanate :—**The Sultans of Delhi continued to rule Madurai through their viceroys till 1334. Sayyid Jalal-ud-din Ahsan Shah, viceroy of Muhammad-bin-Tughlak, defied the Sultan and declared himself independent. But he was not destined to enjoy the fruits of his cavalier act for long, for in the year 1339, an officer of the garrison Ala-ud-din Udanji Shah by a carefully planned *Coup-de-etat* established himself in the throne, killing the former ruler in the process. His rule lasted for only two years. The next ruler Qutb-ud-din Firuz Shah, was slain after 40 days reign and Ghiyas-ud-din Mohammed Damaghan Shah, the brother-in-law of the well known chronicler Ibn-Battuta, became the next ruler. He was constantly engaged in war with the Hoysala monarch Vira Ballala III<sup>1</sup>. In 1342, he trounced the forces of the Hoysala monarch in a battle and the captured Raja was flayed alive. A fortnight later, the Sultan was poisoned. He was succeeded by Nasir-ud-din-Mohammed Gayal Damaghan Shah. It is recorded that this ruler paid a visit to China. His rule was followed by the reigns of three Sultans successively Adil Shah, Fakir-ud-din Mubarak-Shah, and Ala-ud-din Sikkandar Shah till 1378 and the whole period was apparently uneventful.

**The Vijayanagar Empire :—**After Vira Ballala III's death the officers of the last two Ballalas carried on their fight with remarkable tenacity. One of the officers was Bukka and his son, Prince Kumara Kampana, wrenched Madurai from the Mohammedans. The date of Kampana's conquest of Madurai is generally taken as 1358<sup>2</sup>. Probably, Kumara Kampana was declared the viceroy of the Vijayanagar Empire, the foundation stone for which was laid 30 years ago on the banks of the Tungabadhra by his father Bukka, and Harihara. Kampana vigorously tried to restore order. For the years following Kampana's viceroyalty there is not much of information available. The viceroyalty of Madurai again came into prominence during the reign of Devaraya II (A.D. 1419—1449) the emperor of Vijayanagar. He appointed Lakkana, an officer of the court as Viceroy of Madurai who carried on the administration with the help of a deputy. He was given the title "the Lord of the Southern Ocean" which indicates that the Marava country, perhaps including Rameswaram, was under the control of the Madurai Viceroy in the first half of the 15th century. During the reign of Saluva Narasimha, beginning with 1490, Narasa Naik, a general of Vijayanagar was sent to Tirunelveli to quell some disaffection of the feudatories. During the period emperor Vira Narasimha, the next ruler who ruled till 1509, the Madurai country deteriorated into a reign of warring chieftains,

1. Vira Ballala III—Joined Kapaya Nayakka with the avowed object of restoring Hindu-Dharma and free the South from the Muslim domination. In spite of the best efforts of the Sultans they freed the Kakatya Kingdom. He also struck at the Mohammedan Sultanate of Delhi. His successor carried on his struggle to ultimate victory. According to S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar it is he "who made it possible for the South Indian Hindus to be the Hindus they are to day".

2. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar—In the book "the History of the Nayakas of Madurai by R. Sathianatha Iyer", Introduction, 1924, page 7.

struggling against each other. It was left to Emperor Krishna Devaraya (1509—1530) to bring Madurai firmly under the control of Vijayanagar. He sent Nagama to enforce order in the southern most province of the empire. Nagama after accomplishing his task, showed signs of resistance against the emperor. But his rebellion was put down and the authority of the emperor re-imposed by Viswanatha, Nagama's son in 1529.

*Viswanatha Nayakka (1529—1564).*

The Marava country, with the fall of the Madurai sultanate passed under the Vijayanagar Empire. This fact is amply borne out by the *Mrtynjaya* manuscripts which say, "the extent of the country acquired was from Uttatur (Urratur) and Valikondapuram on the north, even to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) on the south ; to Covambutur (Coimbatore), Irodu (Erode), Tarapuram (Dharapuram) and Mela Mali (Mela Malai), Western Ghats on the west and Ramisseram on the east (Rameswaram)."<sup>1</sup>

Due to the transfer of Central authority, for a short while the Marava country became the scene of disaffection. So Viswanatha had to undertake an expedition against the Kambam Gudalur chief, who ceased paying tribute. The Nayak forces were led by Ramabadhra Nayakk who successfully stormed the fort at Kambam and reduced the country to submission<sup>2</sup>.

Nelson and Rangachari are of the view that Viswanatha and his able minister Dalavoy Ariyanathar ruled Marava country through two commissioners. But this administrative experiment soon failed. Even then during the reigns of the next 3 rulers, Krishnappa Nayakka II (1564—1572), Virappa Nayakka (1572—1595) and Krishnappa Nayakka II (1595—1601), no attempt was made to restore order in the Marava country. It was Muthu Krishnappa Nayakka (1601—1609) who effected the settlement of the Marava country.

There were three factors that motivated Muthukrishnappa to effect the much needed settlement. The first and foremost was of political nature. The earlier Nayaks seem to have left the east region, especially the Tirunelveli coast to foreign enterprise. During the rule of the Pandyas, the Arabs had come and settled down in places like Kayalpattinam and Kilakkarai (in Tirunelveli and Ramana-thapuram districts respectively). By the middle of the 16th century the Portuguese had established themselves in Tuticorin, Vaipar and Punnaikayal. Francis Xavier landed in Tirunelveli coast in 1542 and carried on a hectic proselyting campaign. The Nayaks of Madurai to begin with, were rather indifferent to the happenings on the south coast. Meanwhile the Portuguese, with the co-operation of Paravas, who converted to Christianity, established what can be termed as a Portuguese overseas province. They took over the civil and criminal administration of the fishery coast without

1. Oriental Historical Manuscripts, Volume II, page 117.

2. R. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, 1924, page 58.

getting prior sanction from any native potentate. Francis Xavier spoke of Paravas as "subjects of His Portuguese Majesty".<sup>1</sup> However, gradually the Nayaks began to feel the irksomeness of the presence of a foreign power near their territory. To counteract the influence of this foreign power Muthukrishnappa Nayakka decided to establish a strong power near the Portuguese establishments.

The second factor, though economic, was also equally important. The Portuguese began to benefit by all the dues and revenues of the coastal area. More than anything else the revenue from the pearl fisheries went a long way in enriching their treasury. The Nayak rulers felt this loss of revenue. They thought that a strong power in the neighbourhood of the Portuguese territory would be a safeguard against their further extension. A religious factor was also there as a cause for the settlement of the Marava country. Since the failure of Viswanatha's administrative experiment, the whole of Marava country once again lapsed into disorder. The chieftains warred against each other. There was an intense unrest and anarchy all over the region. As a result of the prevailing confusion the route to Rameswaram became unsafe due to their being infested with a number of waylayers<sup>2</sup>. The pilgrims constantly petitioned to the ruler, the Nayak, to make the road safe for travellers.

Muthukrishnappa Nayakka's first step in effecting the settlement of the Marava country was the deputation of Sadaika Deva Udayen Sethupathi to restore order in the Marava country.<sup>3</sup> The date of these events is said to be 1605. This date is likely to be correct as the first Sethupathi inscription of the period belongs to 1607. It is probable that the Sethupathi was entrusted with the task of subduing the rebellious chiefs and was also given a free hand in dealing with the chiefs, on agreeing to pay a fixed tribute. He first appears to have fortified Ramanathapuram and Pogalur and arranged armed escorts to the pilgrims. The turbulent chiefs of the surrounding country were subdued and a strong Government was established at Kalaiyarkoil, Pattamangalam and other places. Thus the Sethupathi proved his capacity to deal effectively with the situation and won the favour of the Nayak<sup>4</sup>. He also increased the Nayak's revenue. Muthukrishnappa Nayakka was well pleased with the Sethupathi and he appointed Sadaika Deva as the chief of the Poligars and the viceroy of Marava Country by sprinkling the water of Ganges on his head and gave him the insignia of dignity<sup>5</sup>. The Sethupathi started ruling the Marava country with the relegated authority.

1. Caldwell, *History of Tinnevely*, 1889, page 71.

2. R. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, 1924, page 92.

3. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, 1924, page 92.

4. R. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, 1924, page 83.

5. Raja Rama Rao, *Raminad Manual*.

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE SETHUPATHIS.

Nelson is of the view that Sadaika Deva was not appointed as the first Sethupathi, but was merely restored to his ancestral possessions. This view is supported by the Mackenzie's manuscripts. The historical memorandum furnished to Nelson by Ponnusami Thevar, the then manager of Ramanathapuram Zamindar also supports this view. Raja Rama Rao, the author of Ramnad Manual, cites some copper plates grants issued by the former Sethupathi. These plates give information about one Venarasukonda Thevar who ruled over not only the Marava country, but also some parts of Ceylon.

The main argument against all the theories supporting very ancient origin of the Sethupathi is the singular absence of any reference in Pandya record.

In Tamil literature also there is no reference to the Sethupathi. But the unmistakable impression one gets from the evidence available today is (1) that Sadaika Thevar was a lineal descendant of an ancient dynasty of Sethupathis and (2) that the Pandya, Chola and Vijayanagar domination over the Marava country was more nominal than real.

*The Sethupathi Dynasty—Sadaika Deva (1605—1621).*—From the epigraphicalevidences available, it is clear that Sadaika Deva had been a successful ruler and did much towards the peace and progress of the Marava country by clearing forests and encouraging cultivation. An inscription at Rameswaram records his gifts to the temple ; these are a grant of five villages in 1607, and another grant of lands to the temple. He also made grants to the temple at Tiruvadanai. He is said to have bestowed proper attention to the management of religious and charitable institutions of the country <sup>1</sup>. He also developed agriculture in the area and this gave incentive to many people to settle down permanently in what has once been described as "the Desert passage" of the Pandya country. The town of Ramanathapuram occupied an important place in the Marava country but had not yet become the main capital of the country. Pogalur which was fortified by Sadaika Deva was the capital<sup>2</sup>. Sadaika Deva remained a faithful vassal to the Madurai Nayak. The inscription at Rameswaram of Muthukrishnappa Nayakka, dated 1608 referring to the construction of a temple in that year supports this fact<sup>3</sup>. He paid his tributes to the Nayak regularly. From the inscription of Sadaika Deva, it is evident that he was given much freedom of action and that Nayak's sovereignty over him was more nominal than real. He was the first Sethupathi whose inscriptions have been discovered.

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1. Raja Rama Rao, *Ramnad Manual*.

2. Pogalur situated about 10 miles north-west of Ramanathapuram now shows no signs of the glory that it is reputed to have attained once.

3. Sewell, *Historical Inscriptions of Southern India*, page 269.

Sadaika Deva<sup>†</sup> died in 1621 leaving four sons and a daughter, after ruling for 17 years. As regards the names of Sadaika Deva's children historians like Sewell, Nelson and Raja Rama Rao the author of the Ramnad Manual hold different views. According to one of the family records, the Sethupathi's sons were Koothan Ragunatha Sethupathi, Dalavai Ragunatha Sethupathi, Kaliyanapuli Deva and Paddanna Nayakka Deva, and the daughter was Kathalai Nachiar.

*Koothan Sethupathi* (1621—1635):—Koothan Sethupathi, Sadaika's eldest son succeeded to the throne on the death of his father in 1621. His fourteen years of reign was a prosperous and peaceful one. He made additional endowments to the Tiruvadanai temple and enlarged the temple at Rameswaram. His reign seems to have been rather uneventful and barren of any political change. He died in the year 1635 leaving a son, Sadaika and a daughter Gangayi Nachiar and his son Sadaika Deva II ascended the throne.<sup>1</sup>

*Sadaika Deva II Dalavoy Sethupathi* (1635—1646):—His first two years of reign passed on without any major event. In his third regnal year, due to reasons unknown, he made known to the public his decision to appoint his adopted son Ragunatha Deva as his successor. Upon this Battana Nayakka *alias* "Thampi", an illegitimate son of the former Sethupathi, openly opposed the Sethupathi and made known his burning desire to oust him from the throne. He hastened to Madurai and was able to convince the Nayak that his claim to the throne of the Sethupathi was legitimate. Sadaika II incurred the displeasure of the Madurai Nayak by his indifference to their authority. Thirumala Nayakka (1623—1659) who was then ruling from Madurai began to back Thampi. Thampi got himself appointed as the Sethupathi and then proceeded to Ramanathapuram with a large escort and tried to persuade Sadaika II to abdicate in his favour. But Sadaika II, having decided to settle the issue at the point of sword and encouraged by the popular support was prepared to meet the challenge. Thus war between the Nayak of Madurai on the one side and the Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram on the other side became unavoidable.

The issue connected with the war are not clear. But the course of the war is graphically described in *Ramappaiyan Ammanai* "one of the most valuable historical documents of the period." To enforce his sovereign will, over the recalcitrant Sadaika II, Thirumala gathered a large force under the generalship of Ramappaiya.

*Ramappaiyan Ammanai* serves as the main source of information regarding the conduct of war. Like most of the historical

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1. Nelson, Madurai Country 1868, Part III, page 128.



ballads it has some anachronisms and "confuses personalities and periods". But the Ballad is full of details and narrates the war in a dramatic manner<sup>1</sup>.

With Rangama Nayakka as his second in command, Ramappaiya set out on his punitive campaign. The vast army moved along the Vaigai and at the end of the day bivouacked at Chinnaravuttanpalayam. The next day it reached Vandiyur. From there, after two days march they passed through Tiruppuvanam and reached Manavira Madurai (Manamadurai). Getting some inkling about the movement of the vast force, Sadaika grew furious and mustered all the force he could and marched against the Madurai army. He was ably supported by Vanniyan, Sadaika's son-in-law, the bravest fighter of the day. The two armies clashed at Ariyandapurakottai and the Marava army emerged victorious. The Madurai camp was plundered, and 300 of their men lay dead while the Maravas lost only 60. Ramappaiya, regaining his poise renewed the attack on the place the next day. In spite of stiff resistance from the Marava army, Ramappaiya captured Ariyandapurakottai. He pursued the retreating Marava forces, came to Kadankudi crossed the Vaigai and at Avtiyuttikottai got up to the Marava force. In the furious engagement that ensued in which Sadaika Deva himself was wounded, the Madurai army gained the upper hand. In spite of Vanniyan's bravery, Sadaika had to retreat and Avtiyuttikottai was promptly occupied by Ramappaiya. Sadaika, still being pursued, crossed the channel to Rameswaram.

At this juncture Thirumala Nayakka had to divert his attention and resources to the northern limits of his kingdom where the Sultan of Bijapur lay, poised for an invasion. Ramappaiya was sent there and after trouncing the Sultan, the General returned to resume his task in the Marava country.

To lay siege to Rameswaram, Ramappaiya planned to build a bridge, thus, according to *Ramappaiya Ammanai*, he rebuilt the mythological *Sethu*. When he was discouraged by his followers, it is said that he himself carried the first stone. Soon the bridge was completed and the whole army marched on. Sadaika was able to secure the help of the Dutch from Ceylon. Thirumala Nayakka, in his turn, secured the help of the Portuguese. This fact is confirmed

1. V. Rangachary, in an article in the *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XIV, 1916, gives an abstract of the ballad. The poem opens with an interview between Thirumala Nayakka and Ramappaiya soon after the news of Sadaika Deva's intrasigence was received. Thirumala hesitates to send a force and says that those who went to war with the Marava country never returned. The General replies that the arm of the Nayaka which have conquered Tanjore, Mysore, Bengal (Sic), Kongu and Malayalam could not fail against the Maravas. Thirumala reluctantly consents and General sets out after worshipping Minakshi. All most all the poligars of the country chiefs and feudatories assembled there. There are the Papaia Nayakka of Madurai and Lingame of Nattam. The Tottiyar chiefs, Gonduma, Ettappa Koppaiya, Irohaka, Puchichi, Muthiyah, Kattabomma, Obala Bomma, Mallappa Kamakshi, Palli Chinnama, Kandama Chinnabala, Appaiya, Tumbichi, Bottana and Bodi and all the gallant men were there to try their strength against the Marava. A considerable number of Marava chiefs also espoused the cause of Thirumala Nayakka. Even the Morava of Tankasi, the king of Nanjinad and the king Colombo sent some forces.

by the Portuguese records and the Jesuit letters<sup>1</sup>. These records refer to the naval battles between the two forces. During the fight Vanniyan, Sadaika's able General lost his life. Ramappaiya soon over powered the Sethupathi and brought him to Madurai<sup>2</sup>. He was kept as a prisoner in the capital and Thampi was installed as the Sethupathi. Thampi proved unpopular in the Marava country and Ragunatha Deva and Narayana Deva, nephews of the former Sethupathi bitterly opposed him. Once again anarchy raised its head all over the Marava country. His inability to restore peace and order was soon demonstrated. The Bairagis a fanatic sect of Vaishnava devotees, who visited Rameswaram at this time, importuned Thirumala to restore Sadaika<sup>3</sup>. Realising that only Sadaika Deva can restore order, Thirumala released him and gave him back his country.

Sadaika ruled for a few years until he was murdered by Thampi. To satisfy all the claimants, Thirumala divided the Marava country into three parts about the year 1646, the sub-division with Ramannathapuram as the capital was given to Ragunatha Deva, while Sivaganga was allotted to Thampi and Tiruvadanaï to Tanaka Deva.

*Ragunatha Deva Alias Thirumala Sethupathi (1647—1672.)*;—Tanaka Deva passed away shortly after the partition. Ragunatha Sethupathi immediately annexed Tiruvadanaï. With Thampi's compliance he annexed the towns of Mannarkoil, Pattukottai, Devakottai, Arantangi and Tiruvarur from the Raja of Thanjavur<sup>4</sup>. Thampi himself was getting restless at the extension of Ragunatha's territory. But he died suddenly. Thus Ragunatha found himself the ruler of a very extensive kingdom and became a veritable rival to the Madurai Nayak himself in point of territory and influence. And an opportunity came for Ragunatha to demonstrate his might.

The ruler of Mysore, Kanthirava Narasa Raja, had been waiting to avenge his defeat in the hands of Thirumala in 1625<sup>5</sup>. After gathering considerable strength and realising that the Sultan of Bijapur would not attack him, he invaded the province of Satyamangalam in Thirumala's territory, in 1656. From there he marched towards Madurai, capturing hundreds of men and women and depriving them of their noses, as a method of torture<sup>6</sup>. Thirumala Nayahka, who was in his sick bed appealed to his faithful vassal for

1. R. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*—1924, page 123.

2. Nelson and Raja Rama Rao, the author of *Ramnad Manual* talk of Ramappaiya's death during the campaign. But the evidences in *Ramappaiyan Ammanai* and the *History of Carnataca Governors* are against it. An inscription of 1648, from Srisaïlam refers to Ramappaiya's time and it is inferred that the General died some years after the Marava Campaign.

3. *Ramnad Manual*, page 216.

4. There is no record epigraphical or otherwise to prove that the modern Thanjavur District was ever under the Sethupathi's. It is presumed that Ragunatha's control over conquered areas was merely nominal.

5. V. Rangacharya—*Indian Antiquary*, 1916, page 166.

6. R. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, 1924, page 135.

assistance. Ragunatha with remarkable tact levied in a single day 25,000 men and marched towards Madurai to protect the city and save the honour of his overlord. In two sanguinary battles, the Sethupathi trounced the Mysore forces, with the help of 35,000 men of Thirumala and drove the Mysore army beyond the Province of Dindigal. The Sethupathi thus brought the "war of the noses", as it came to be called to a successful end. As a Jesuit father, Ant-De-Procuza wrote, "the ruin of Madurai would have been assured but for the help rendered by the Sethupathi".

Thirumala Nayakka was greatly pleased with his vassal and gave him the title "Thirumalai Sethupathi" and also "the protector of the Queen's Thali (the sacred string)" (தாலிக்கு வேலி) because he had saved Thirumala's life.<sup>1</sup> The Sethupathi was granted the privilege of using the lion faced palanquin, (அரிமுகப் பலங்கு) a unique feature of the Madurai royal house hold. The Nayak relieved the Sethupathi of paying the tribute for ever and added to the Sethupathi's territory villages of Tiruppuvanam Tiruchuli and Pallimadam.

On behalf of the Nayak, the Sethupathi had to face a Mohamdean rebellion led by Khutab Khan, which was easily suppressed<sup>1</sup>. This earned him the title "protector of the country" (*Desa Kavalan-தேசக் காவுலன்*). But a more formidable task awaited him. For some still unknown reason poligar of Ettaiyapuram, one of the powerful poligar of the day, gathered a number of contumacious poligars around himself and raised the banner of revolt against the Madurai king. The task of quelling the disaffection was entrusted to Ragunatha Sethupathi. Sethupathi led a force, defeated the confederation of the poligars and put the poligar of Ettaiyapuram to death. He severely punished the allied poligars and tranquilised the Tirunelveli country. In appreciation of the Sethupathi's achievement, the Nayak granted him a large slice of territory in the confines of Mannarkoil in Tirunelveli Province. He was also made the protector of the pearl fishery which was an important source of revenue to the Nayak.

Ragunatha's reign left an impact on the cultural sphere of the Marava country also. To honour his overlord, the Sethupathi decided to introduce Telugu, the Nayaks' mother tongue in the Marava country. He made Telugu the alternate language in his court at Ramanathapuram. One of his still extant documents, a palm leaf record dated 1658 purporting to be an order issued by him for the appointment of Sankara Iyer, the priest of *Rajeswari Ammankoil* within the palace of Ramanathapuram, bears the Telugu seal of the Sethupathi.

1. A copper plate record mentions all the titles of Ragunatha. It is dated, the Saka 1689, *Report on Annual Epigraphy*, 1936, page 92.

2. *Ramanad Manual*—page 219.

It was Ragunatha who introduced the *Navarathiri* (Nine nights festival) in this part of south India. This festival was celebrated with great pomp and splendour in Madurai by the Nayaks. Thirumala Nayakka presented Ragunatha with a *Durga Peedam* (an alter of the Goddess *Durga*) and permitted him to celebrate the *Navarathiri* festival in his own kingdom with the same pomp and magnificence. To the present day the celebrations at *Rajeswari Ammankoil* at Ramanathapuram and at Rameswaram temple are according to the original arrangement effected by Ragunatha Sethupathi.

The last years of this celebrated Sethupathi were marred by the estrangement of relationship between the Nayak and himself. It appears, though the Sethupathi himself was very faithful to his over lord at Madurai, that the Nayak watched the increase in the power and influence of his vassal with suspicion and feared, quite unwarrantedly that he may one day begin to assert his power. To forestall him, the Nayak peremptorily invaded the Sethupathi's territory. The Jesuit father Ant-De-Procuza's letters throw ample light on the development of those days. The Nayak seized Pudukkottai, Manamadurai and Tiruppattur and "certain other less important places". Then he captured the fortress of Kalaiyarkoil. But the Marava army familiar with the ground they were fighting on harried the Madurai forces avoiding an open engagement. The Nayak had to withdraw to Madurai to conduct some ceremonies that were already overdue, leaving his generals to continue the operations. The Sethupathi, realising that the Madurai forces were at a disadvantageous position, while fighting in his territory covered with large patches of forests, easily wrested back some of the places captured by them. The Nayak soon abandoned his attempts at humbling the Sethupathi, but kept with him a few strongholds in the Marava country. The Sethupathi was deeply grieved to accept the defeats his forces suffered in the earlier stages of the invasion. From then on, he devoted himself to measures to be taken for the improvement of his territory and even refused to give interview to visitors. Father Ant-De-Procuza was not able to see the Sethupathi during this period<sup>1</sup>.

Ragunatha built a village at Rameswaram which was so located as to be accessible through the bridge built by Ramappaiya. From then on, he spent most of his days at Rameswaram. He immortalised his name in the annals of Rameswaram by performing the "*Hiranyagarbha*" sacrifice and thus won the title *Hiranyagarbhaya* which all the subsequent Sethupathis assumed. He demonstrated his piety and zeal by his munificent acts. For the support of several brahmin families he granted fifty villages. Ragunatha endowed to Kothandaraman Choultry in Rameswaram

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1. Ramnad Manual, page 219.

and the temples at Anaiyur, Melachiruppottu, Velimuthy, Vadathak-Kulam and Tiruchuli. He also made grants to the Tiruvadutural Mutt in the Thanjavur District. He built the *Vanasankari Amman* temple at Ramanathapuram. After an attack of and recovery from small-pox, he constructed a *Mariamman* temple at his capital. After an eventful and glorious reign of twenty-five years, Ragunatha died in the Tamil month of *Ani* in 1674<sup>1</sup>, leaving the throne to his nephew Rajasurya Thevar, son of Narayana Thevar<sup>2</sup>.

*Rajasurya Sethupathi*—1674:—Rajasurya's reign lasted only for six months and during this period he got himself involved in the intrigues of the Thanjavur Court and lost his life in the process. Alagiri, an ally, of Chokkanatha Nayakka of Madurai (1659—1682) was ruling Thanjavur. Chengamaladas, an aspirant to the power with the support of Ekoji, a Maratha free booter, challenged the former's position. Rajasurya supported the cause of Chengamaladas against Chokkanatha.<sup>3</sup> The details of the coalition are unknown. But Dalavay Venkatakrishnappa who was commander-in-chief of the Nayak's forces in their operations in Thanjavur, managed to capture Rajasurya and subsequently put him to death<sup>4</sup>. Rajasurya did not leave any legal heir behind him and as a result an inter regnum followed. The Maravas had to choose a ruler. After some disagreement among them they chose Ragunatha *alias* Kilavan Sethupathi, the former Sethupathi's illegitimate son.

*Kilavan Sethupathi* (1674—1710):—The reign of Kilavan Sethupathi was of great significance for more than one reason. Being a capable administrator and a skillful soldier, he raised the prestige of the Marava country and made it a force to be reckoned with. He extricated the Marava country from the Nayak overlordship and declared himself independent. It was during his reign that Pudukkottai emerged as a separate entity.

He was unscrupulous in his methods to make his position secure. His first task towards this direction was the execution of two of his associates, who assisted him to win the throne, lest they should prove rivals to himself.

The Sethupathi played a prominent and active role in foiling the attempts of one Rustom Khan to establish a Muslim dynasty in Tiruchirapalli<sup>5</sup>. Rustom Khan, a favourite soldier of Chokkanatha,

1. It was held by some historians that his reign ended in 1672. But this theory stands reflected now. The last inscription of Ragunatha is the one at Hanumanta-gudu dated 1673-74—Nayaks of Madura, page 184.

2. An inscription dated Saka 1589 found at Tiruppattur (Ramanathapuram District) mentions the following titles of Ragunatha (Tevai Nagaradipan, Setumula-rakshaka Durandaran.

3. R. Sathianatha Iyer, The History of the Nayaks of Madura, 1924, page 184.

4. V. Vridhagirisan, The Nayaks of Tanjore. 1942, page 165.

5. According to Leon Besse (La Mission du Madura. page 3) the capital was removed from Madurai and transferred to Tiruchirapalli in 1616.

was a cavalry officer in the Nayak force. When Chokkanatha Nayakka was deposed his younger brother Muthulinga Nayakka *alias* Muthu Alakadu became the king. Rustom Khan was hatching a plot to usurp the throne. When Muthulinga was away from the fortress of Tiruchirappalli, he closed the gates and assumed royal authority. To win popular approval, he released Chokkanatha from prison. He was able to maintain himself in power for two years, but he failed to organise a strong and efficient administration. When Rustom Khan's weakness as a ruler was demonstrated by his total failure to conduct the defence effectively during the siege of Tiruchirappalli by the Mysoreans in 1680, Kilavan Sethupathi with the help of some poligars, the chief among whom was Chinna Katri Nayakka of Kannivadi and some other adherents of Chokkanatha, managed to over power Rustom Khan and murdered him. Chokkanatha and the Nayak kingdom were thus saved from the tyranny of Rustom Khan. In recognition of this valuable help, Chokkanatha conferred on the Sethupathi the title of *Para Raja Kesari* (Lion to Foreign Kings) and the services of one Kumara Pillai were transferred to the Sethupathi. Kumara Pillai later became the Dalavay of the Sethupathi.

After the death of Chokkanatha Nayakka in 1682, the Sethupathi began to assert his independence gradually. In 1686, according to Nelson, he espoused the cause of Venkatakrishna, the former Dalavay of the Nayak and who had now raised the banner of revolt. Chengamaladas, the last of the Thanjavur Nayaks also joined hands with them in an attack against Madurai<sup>1</sup>. It was agreed that the Sethupathi should cede to Thanjavur for a term of twelve years the districts lying between Pamban and Pudukkottai in consideration of the military help that would be rendered by Chengamaladas<sup>2</sup>. But this proposed campaign against Muthu Virappa Nayakka III did not materialise, since the Dalavay at Ramanathapuram, Kumara Pillai did not approve of the Sethupathi's plans. The Dalavay made futile attempts to capture the Sethupathi and Venkatakrishnappa and hand them over to the Nayak as traitors. But the Sethupathi getting intelligence of his plans foiled his schemes and tortured him and his family to ignoble death.

These intrigues provoked Muthu Virappa Nayakka III to set out on a punitive campaign against the Marava country. Chengamaladas sent his forces to help the Sethupathi. The forces of the Nayak at the initial stages overran the whole of the Marava country. An indecisive engagement took place near Ramanathapuram. A few days later, a decisive battle was fought, in which the forces of Chengamaladas sent under the command of Varabogi Pandithan, took part. The Sethupathi emerged victorious and the forces of the Nayak had to beat a hasty retreat. This brought the war to a close.

1. V. Vridhagirisan, *The Nayaks of Tanjore*, 1942, page 167.

2. Nelson, *The Madura country*, 868, Part III, page 213.

Soon the Sethupathi found himself at war with the ruler of Thanjavur. Trouble arose over the terms of the treaty signed in 1686 between the Sethupathi and the Nayak of Thanjavur. The Sethupathi peremptorily undertook an invasion and succeeded in capturing the fortress of Arantangi, Tirumayamkottai, Piranmalai and all the territory south of *Ambari* river. Mangammal, who was the Nayak regent of the Madurai country at this period wanted to put a check to the growing power of the Sethupathi. In 1702, Dalavay Narasappaiya, securing the help of the Thanjavur forces marched against the Marava country. But the Sethupathi was too powerful for him and the Dalavay lost his life in the campaign. The Marava army proved superior to the war-worn Madurai forces because it was recruited almost entirely from one stock of people. The military administration was so well carried on that the Sethupathi could collect even 30,000 or 40,000 men in a week. This military superiority of the Marava country was an important factor in securing her political freedom from the Nayak control. After his victory in the war, Kilavan convinced of his armed might became an independent ruler. He strengthened his defence establishments.

The Thanjavur ruler was waiting for an opportunity to invade the Marava kingdom. In 1709 when the Sethupathi's domain was subjected to severe famine and cyclonic floods, the Thanjavur forces entered his country. But Kilavan was able to repel the attack successfully. He pursued the retreating Thanjavur forces and captured the Arantangi fortress. The Thanjavur ruler submissively sued for peace.

Another significant event of Kilavan's reign was the advent of Pudukkottai royal house as a subordinate vassal to the Ramanathapuram kingdom. The author of *Ramnad Manual* narrates an amorous exploit of Kilavan and the consequential establishment of Pudukkottai<sup>1</sup>. Ragunatha a vassal of Kilavan was attempting to detach Pudukkottai from the Marava country and merge it with the territory of the Thanjavur ruler. It so happened, at this juncture that Kilavan found himself in love with Kathali, sister of the contumacious Ragunatha. The Sethupathi married her and in order to placate her brother, appointed him the chief of Pudukkottai with the title Ragunatha Tondaiman<sup>2</sup>.

In the year 1710, this remarkable ruler died. It is said that his wives, 47 in number burnt themselves alive with the body of the Sethupathi thus performing the age long *Sathi*. The author of Ramanathapuram Manual gives a graphic description of this ceremony<sup>3</sup>.

Another significant event that took place in the reign of this Sethupathi should be mentioned. The capital of the Marava country was changed from Pogalur to Ramanathapuram. Kilavan

1. *Ramnad Manual*—page 225.

2. Pudukkottai, however, soon became independent while all other poligars were ven the status of a Zamindar and their territories came to be called Zamindaris. udukkottai remained a native state till its merger with the Indian Union.

3. *Ramnad Manual*—page 226.

demolished the mud walls that surrounded Ramanathapuram and erected a stone fortress which consisted of a strong wall 27 feet high and 5 feet thick surrounded by a deep ditch. The royal palace was built in the centre of the fort and this extensive building is still existing in Ramanathapuram. This palace is also surrounded by a stone wall. Outside the palace walls, towards the west a reservoir was dug, *Mugavai Urani* as it was called with arrangements for the rain waters to collect there, as a provision against the severe drought of the dry season. Grateful of this beneficent act, the people of the area gave him the title *Mugavai Urani Ayya* (Lord of the *Mugavai Urani*). Kilavan endowed the temples of the country, profusely and spent a part of his wealth in charitable works. The temples at Tiruppullani, Mudukulattur, Tiruchuli, Rameswaram and the *Chatram* (choultry) at Pudumadam were endowed by him. At Tonitorai he built a new choultry.

Kilavan Sethupathi's reign is important for the work of Father De Britto in the field of propagating Christian faith. The subject has been extensively treated by Nelson and Father Betrand<sup>1</sup>. Father John De Britto of the Madura Mission made the Marava Country as the centre of his work and incurred the wrath of the Sethupathi by his proselyting zeal. Born in Lisbon in 1647, John De Britto, spurned aside the mundane attractions of a distinguished political career at home and not paying heed to pleadings of his mother and the persuasion of Government authorities became a Noviciate with the intention of becoming a missionary<sup>2</sup>. His piety and devotion gradually increased and he decided to dedicate his life for the spread of Christianity in India. In 1673, he left for India and spent three years in Goa before coming to Madurai in March 1680 along with Andre Freire, another missionary. De Britto boldly chose the Marava country as the field of his work wherein no missionary had stepped in since the persecutions 17 years before.

The Madura Mission had considerably spread Christianity in the Marava country. Andre Feire, a famous missionary of the Madura Mission, in a letter dated 1666 refers to the conversion of a well known Marava captain<sup>3</sup>. This probably led to the terrible persecution of Christians in 1669. Though there was no organized policy of campaign for persecution, the periodical wars and other pestilences added to the troubles of the missionaries.

By his work in the Marava country De Britto acquired great reputation and even miracles are attributed to him. It appears De Britto was practising what has now come to be known as "faith healing". His hold on Tiriya Thevar a member of the Ramanathapuram royal house increased, when he cured Tiriya Thevar of a serious ailment. After his recovery from illness, Tiriya Thevar embraced

1. Nelson, The Madura country, 1868, Vol. III, page 217.

2. R. Sathianatha Iyer, History of the Nayaks of Madura, pages 124—199.

3. Father Betrand, La Mission du Madura, 1847, Vol. III, page 229.



christianity and renewed his hostility with Kilavan Sethupathi. Tiriya decided to renounce polygamy and sever his connections with all his wives save one. The ladies of Tiriya's harem, failing in their attempts to win him back, made a representation to Kilavan Sethupathi and implored him to protect them. Kathali one of the wives of Tiriya and a niece of Kilavan, met the Sethupathi and entreated him to punish the missionary. Spurred to action by her pleadings Kilavan ordered Tiriya Thevar to arrest the missionary and to demolish all his churches. Not content with this Kathali induced a brahmin named Pampavanam well known for his opposition to De Britto's missionary activities to lead a deputation of brahmins to the Sethupathi and tell him that the safety of the Marava country was imperilled by the progress of Christianity. They said that if Kilavan were to permit the preaching of this foreign faith, the whole kingdom may become Christian in a year or two and that Tiriya would then be able to usurp the Marava throne. Kilavan immediately resolved upon action.

Tiriya Thevar was summoned to the Court and the Sethupathi himself interrogated him, Tiriya boldly, declared that it was a fact that De Britto was preaching Christianity, converting people to the faith and building churches in the Marava country. Tiriya Thevar's status prevented the infuriated Sethupathi from punishing him for such insolent answer. Tiriya was a member of the royal family and was more closely related to that family than the illegitimate Kilavan himself. Whence, Kilavan decided to inflict on De Britto the punishment which he was not able to inflict on Tiriya and ordered the arrest of the Missionary who was then camping at a village called Muni. He was arrested along with another brahmin follower of his and two catechists by a company of soldiers on the 8th January. One of the three others arrested was a subject of the Madurai king, but he refused to avail himself of the release that was offered. The four prisoners were chained and attached by long ropes to the saddles of four horses ridden by the soldiers and were dragged along. De Britto was comforted by groups of Christians who had gathered all along the route after hearing the news of his arrest. The prisoners were made to run fast and were whipped whenever they showed any sight of exhaustion. At Hanumanthagudi their destination for the day, De Britto was led to an open space and ordered to utter the name Siva and on refusing he was subjected to innumerable torture.<sup>1</sup>

On 11th January the prisoners were taken to Ramanathapuram and thrown inside a prison. A few days later the Sethupathi, who was away from the capital returned. Tiriya Thevar, who was still in the capital tried his utmost to secure the release of De Britto. But the brahminical opposition to this move was formidable. However, the Sethupathi desisted from doing any harm to De Britto in Ramanathapuram, because Tiriya was present there and there was also

1. Raja Rama Rao, Ramnad Manual, page 141-144.

the fear which the Sethupathi shared that De Britto being a miracle worker might bring great calamity if he was harmed in any way. The number of Christians in the Marava country was also considerable and the Sethupathi thought it would be impolitic to incur their displeasure.

The Sethupathi met the situation by issuing a proclamation that De Britto was banished from his realm and sent under escort to his brother who was Governor of Oriyur, a fortress on the northern frontier of the Marava country situated on the river *Pamban*. Sethupathi also sent a secret despatch to his brother instructing him to behead the missionary. De Britto arrived in Oriyur on the 31st January, but his execution did not take place immediately. The Governor's wife who was a Christian implored her husband to spare De Britto. But her tears were of no avail and on the 4th February 1693, De Britto was led to an elevated site over looking the fortress and was beheaded. In a frenzy of sadism, his head and limbs were cut off and hung up as a warning to all Christians. His remains were not handed over to his followers for burial but were exposed to the birds. But with great difficulty, some of his followers successfully evaded the guards and gathering his skull and a few other bones, gave him a burial.<sup>1</sup>

*Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi 1710-1725*:—Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Thevar son of Kadamba Thevar and a nephew of Kilavan succeeded to the throne. Amidst ceremonial pomp he was crowned on a *Vijayadasami* day and this accounts for the prefix "Vijaya" in his second name. He was constantly troubled by his rival Bhavani Sankara, an illegitimate son of Kilavan. He had to keep his forces in constant readiness for any military undertaking. Though this challenge to his position considerably retarded the growth of administrative institutions, the Sethupathi was able to introduce some reforms.

He resorted order in the revenue system of the country. From Madurai efficient accountants were brought and precise accounts of the villages were drawn up. To facilitate sound administration he divided the country into eight revenue districts. For military purposes he divided the country into seventy two divisions, and appointed chieftains as the heads of each division, which was granted to them free of any tribute as long as the service was upheld. He built forts at Rajasingamangalam, Oriyur, Aranthangi, Tiruppattur, Kamudi and Pamban. Thiru Udaya made his mark in the field of religion also. Himself pious and devout, he granted several *Dharmasanams* (grants) to the brahmins. He performed '*Hiranyagarbha Yagam*' at Ramanathapuram and endowed the *Kothanda Romaswamy* temple of the same place. His special devotion to the

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1. Nelson. *Madura Country*, 1868, Vol. III, pages 217-220.

Rameswaram temple expressed itself in the form of his munificent grants. He made important additions to the great temple and himself attended it as frequently as his position as a ruler could permit. He offered worship daily in the evenings in the temple. To facilitate this practice he maintained a constant relay of horses posted all along the route from Ramanathapuram to Tonitorai (37 miles). He geared up the administration and carefully attended to the care and conveyance of the pilgrims to Rameswaram. To assist them, the Sethupathi appointed his own son-in-law, to whom he had given in marriage his two daughters, to the command of the Pamban port with explicit orders that he should assist the pilgrims in their passage over the channel and afterwards in their wearisome march across to Dhanushkodi. <sup>1</sup>

Thiru Udaya Thevar's reign marked the beginning of the Sivaganga Zamindari. Nallukottai Udaya Thevar won the favour of the Sethupathi and got the daughter of the Sethupathi, Agilandeswari Nachiar, married to his son Sasivarna Thevar with the dowry in the form of lands enough to maintain 1,000 men.

The famine which held the whole of Marava country in its deadening grip for nearly a decade since the death of Kilavan, ceased in 1720. Abundant rains and the subsequent rich harvest filled the graneries. But the tranquility of Thiru Udayar's reign was marred by the events that led to the connection of the Pamban and Rameswaram by a bridge. The Sethupathi was infuriated by the news of the levy of an unauthorised tax by his son-in-law, who had been earlier entrusted with the task of protecting the pilgrims, and had him put to death inspite of the entreaties of his two daughters. The widows burnt themselves in their husband's funeral pyre. Their memory is still preserved in the two choultries *Akka Madam* and *Thangachchi Madam* built over their remains on the road from Pamban to Rameswaram.

Thiru Udaya, in the last years of his reign had to meet the challenge of the combined armies of three powers. Bhavani Sankara the imposter secured the help of the ruler of Thanjavur in his designs against the Marava Country. Pudukkottai Chieftain, a brother-in-law of Kilavan Sethupathi, also encouraged Bhavani Sankara and the three forces combined to attack the Marava Country. The Sethupathi marched to Arantangi where he met the combined army. A few indecisive engagements were fought. Before the operations could be pursued further, an epidemic broke out in the Sethupathi's camp and in addition to his men, he also lost his wives and sons. Not long after this bereavement the Sethupathi, himself fell a victim to the epidemic and it proved fatal after he was removed to Ramanathapuram in 1720. Greatly demoralised the Marava

1. The Sethupathi's son-in-law, motivated by a desire to make his name for beneficence to the temple struck upon a plan to collect money for the purpose. He levied a small boat-fee from all the passenger who crossed over from the mainland to Rameswaram and out of the money so acquired he laid a road, 8 miles in length between Pamban and Rameswaram.

forces withdrew. The death of the Sethupathi was a signal to a dispute over the succession which brought the ultimate collapse of the kingdom itself.<sup>1</sup>

Even before his death the Sethupathi, having lost his sons, had nominated Tanda Theva, a member of the royal family as his successor. But Bhavani Sankara once again tried diplomacy to win his claim. Through the support of his mother-in-law, a Principal concubine of the deceased Sethupathi, Bhavani Sankara secured popular support and became the Sethupathi. Tanda Theva managed to get the support of the Pudukkottai chief and the Nayak at Madurai and tried to buy of his royal with the promise of territorial cession. His overtures bearing no fruits, he laid seize to Arantangi. Bhavani Sankara horrified at the strength of Tanda Theva, took refuge in the Thanjavur court. He concluded a treaty with the Raja of Thanjavur by which he agreed to transfer all his territories north of Pamban to the king of Thanjavur in return for his help against his rival. After two or three months Bhavani Sankara with a large army from Thanjavur invaded the Marava country. The allies of Tanda Theva came to his help. Madurai sent a few soldiers, and the Pudukkottai army encamped near the Thanjavur army. The Thanjavur forces easily dispersing the Marava force attacked the Pudukkottai army. The two sons of the Pudukkottai ruler fell in the hands of the Thanjavur General and the former came to terms quickly. Then Ramanathapuram was invested and the fort was ruined and captured. Bhavani Sankara was once again declared as the Sethupathi.

Bhavani Sankara could never win the good will of his subjects and vassals and his administration only hastened his fall. He treated the poligars under him injudiciously. Sasivarna Peria Udaya Thevar was deprived of his Palayam of Vallikottai, one of the eight revenue districts of the Marava country. He fled to the Thanjavur court and won the favour of the king who was already angry with Bhavani Sankara for his repudiation of his treaty obligations. Kattaya Thevar, brother of the late Sethupathi Tanda Theva who had fled from Ramanathapuram during the time of its capture by Bhavani Sankara had also taken refuge at Thanjavur. These two refugees soon became good allies. They jointly induced the king of Thanjavur to provide them with a force to invade the Marava country on condition of ceding him the territories north of Pamban. The Thanjavur king agreed to this the Marava country was invaded and Bhavani Sankara was defeated and taken as prisoner to Thanjavur in 1729.

The logical sequel to the invasion of the Marava country was its partition among the three powers. All the territories north of Pamban was taken by Thanjavur and the remainder of the country was parcelled out into five portions in 1733 ; three of the five were ceded to Kattaya Thevar, who occupied the throne with the title Kumara Muthu Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi, and the other two

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1. B. Sathianatha Iyer, *History of the Nedyaks of Madura*, 1924, page 227.

went to the pollgar refugee and an ally of Kattaya Thevar, who was to become later the Raja of Sivaganga. The inevitable result of the partition was that the Sethupathi ceased to be an influencing factor in politics and the Raja of Sivaganga gradually outshone him.

The reduced Marava country over which Kattaya Thevar started his reign was called *Peria Vadagai* (larger country) which formed the later Ramanathapuram Zamindari. True to the tradition of the Sethupathi dynasty, Kattaya Thevar was also very liberal in his religious and charitable endowments. He constructed the *Thangachchimattam* in the island of Rameswaram and *Tittanadadanam chatram* near Tiruvadanaï. *Balasubramaniaswamy* temple at Ramanathapuram owes its existence to this Sethupathi. Temples at Rameswaram, Kilakkarai and Tiruppullani were also richly endowed. About twenty villages were granted to the brahmins as *Dharmasams*. Two of his leading civil servants, *Pradanis* as they were called, Ramalinga-Pillai and Vairavan Servai, who were in charge of the revenue administration of the country built temples respectively at Kulavayal and Peruvayal and got them endowed by the Sethupathi.

With Kattaya Thevar the history of the united Marava kingdom ceases. The kingdom which in its palmiest days of the Kilavan Sethupathi had covered an extent of five thousand square miles was reduced to a small principality in the days of Kattaya Thevar. He was succeeded by his son Siva Kumar Muthu Vijaya Ragonatha Theva in 1736.

Siva Kumara ruled till 1748 and his 12 years of reign was uneventful. He also endowed temples and choultries. He built the *chatram* called *Akka Madam*, reference to which had been made earlier. In the year 1748, the Sethupathi died without any issue and his minister and Dalavay Vellayan Servaigar nominated Racka Thevar, a cousin of the late Kattaya Thevar as the successor.

Sethupathi Racka Thevar ruled for barely one year. The most important event that occurred in his reign was an invasion of the Marava Country, by her traditional foe, the Raja of Thanjavur which was successfully repulsed by Dalavay Vellayan Servaigar. The Dalavay also conducted a number of punitive expeditions against several of the intransigent poligars of Tirunelveli. The Sethupathi soon grew alarmed at the increase in the power and prestige of the Dalavay and ordered him to come back. On his return the Dalavay rebelled against the Sethupathi who had to flee to save his life, to Pamban. He was however, pursued and taken prisoner. Vellayan Servaigar, the king maker, then deposed Racka Thevar and placed on the throne Sella Thevar *alias* Vijaya Ragonatha Sethupathi in 1749.

Sella Thevar ruled for 13 years. In the initial years of his reign another invasion from Thanjavur was firmly met by the Dalavay Vellayan Servaigar. In 1752, captain Cope had taken possession of a part of Madurai country on behalf of the Raja of Mysore. The Dalavay Vellayan Servaigar and Thandavaraya Pillai the minister

of Sivaganga principality besieged and forced Captain Cope to capitulate. The Dalavay installed the adopted son of Minakshi (1732—36) on the throne. But he was, however, deposed by the agents of Mohammed Ali, the Nawab of Arcot. The Dalavay of Ramanathapuram again attacked Madurai and defeated the Mohammedan forces. They were, however, allowed to hold Madurai in a tributary capacity and as a vassal of Ramanathapuram on the condition that they disavowed the Nawab's authority.

In the Carnatic wars between Mohammed Ali and Chanda Sahib, in which the French were backing Chanda Sahib and the English the former, the Sethupathi first took sides with Chanda Sahib. But subsequently in 1755 he sent a deputation to the English apologising for his conduct and requested to be received into an alliance with the English. He offered to cede to the Company two settlements on the Marava coast which would greatly facilitate their communications with Tirunelveli where the poligar wars were being fought. Col. Heron was so convinced about the desirability of accepting the offer that he signed an agreement with the Sethupathi without consulting the Presidency authorities. The Sethupathi then ordered 5,000 men under the command of his brother Subbaraya Thevar to march and assist the East India Company in reducing the Tirunelveli poligars. But the king of Thanjavur and the Tondaiman, also allies of the Company vehemently protested to the Presidency authorities who directed Col. Heron to break off all further communications with the Sethupathi. The Ramanathapuram troops were ordered to march back to their capital while they were within 5 miles of Tirunelveli.

The Dutch were trying hectically at this period to secure a foot hold in the country. They managed to win the friendship of Sella Thevar and presented to him articles of great value. They sought his permission to establish trading settlements in his country. In 1759, the Sethupathi granted the required permission by entering into a treaty with them. The Dutch, however, were not allowed to fortify their factories. The Dutch violated this clause after some time and consequently found themselves prisoners of the Sethupathi in his capital. They were released after they apologized for their act. It appears, that the Dutch were maintaining cordial relationship with the Sethupathi even after this episode. Sella Thevar breathed his last in the year 1762 and was succeeded by his sister's son, a child, two months old.

Soon after the death of Sella Thevar, Vellayan Servaigar, the king maker also died. The Dalavaiship passed on to Damodaram Pillai. It should be observed here that Vellayan Servaigar had greatly added to the powers of the Dalavoy and had made the office a significant one. Damodaram Pillai added to the defence of Ramanathapuram fort and erected a fort in Tiruppullani<sup>1</sup>. The nominal sovereign of the kingdom at this period was Muthu Tiruvayi Nachiar, the mother of the child king who was then acting as the regent.

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<sup>1</sup> This fort can be still seen. It is in a dilapidated condition.

by this time, the Nawab of Arcot had established his sway over Madurai and Tirunelveli. But the poligars, including the Sethupathi were assuming their independence which they never failed to express even during the hey day of the Madurai Nayaks. The Nawab, however, pointing to the myth of Madurai over-lordship over Ramanathapuram claimed the area to be under his jurisdiction and wanted to collect the revenue as matter of right. An army was sent to subjugate the Dalavay. But the Marava armies proved too good for the forces of the Nawab who beat a hasty retreat. The Dalavay knew that it was but the beginning of the troubles that were in store for him and to meet the situation he entered into a treaty alliance with the Dutch East India Company, the bitter rivals of the English East India Company who being the Nawab's chief creditor, actively supported his military undertakings. According to this treaty that was signed on the 24th June 1767, the Dutch East India Company agreed to give a share of the pearl fishery from the Madurai Coast.<sup>1</sup> The Dalavay transferred the possession of Pamban canal to the Dutch, however, retaining for his people free access to the canal. The Dutch were given the power to allow or prohibit the entry of foreigners. In addition to this the Dutch were given permission to repair their establishment at Kilakkarai and were also given some tax concessions.

At this juncture, the Raja of Thanjavur laid claim to the Hanumanthagudi District and in order to enforce the claim, invaded Ramanathapuram. Damodaram Pillai himself led the Marava forces and worsted the Raja of Thanjavur. The Maravas lost a valuable general and administrator, when Damodaram Pillai met with his death in the hands of a private enemy. He was succeeded by Pitchai Pillai.

The Nawab of Arcot could not tolerate the fightings that went on among the rulers whom he thought were his tributaries. To enforce his authority and to bring the recalcitrant rulers under his direct control he sought the help of the British. The Nawab attacked Thanjavur for the Raja's cavalier act of invading Ramanathapuram and was able to dictate terms. Next his attention was turned towards Ramanathapuram and he wanted to chastise the ruler for not hastening the help of the Nawab in his attack on Thanjavur.

The East India Company actively supported the Nawab's policy and sent a force under General Joseph Smith. The Company forces easily over-powered the Marava forces and took the infant Sethupathi and the Queen Regent, Muthu Thiruvayi Natchiar as prisoners. They were removed to Tiruchirapalli and kept under their custody. The Company had played only a mercenary role in subjugating the Marava country, while the sovereignty of the area passed on to the Nawab. This marked the end of the Sethupathi's territory as a separate entity and it remained in the Nawab's hand for eight more years.

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1. Two *Dhonies* (boats.)

But the chieftains of the Marava country were not reconciled to the *fait accompli*. They began to muster their strength with an idea to wrest the Marava country free from the Muhammadan overlordship. The whole Marava country was seething with discontent. The Nawab of Arcot, Muhammad Ali was quick to notice the signs of disaffection and decided to meet the situation by giving the Sethupathi a semblance of independence. The infant Sethupathi was restored and a tribute to the tune of Rs.1,75,000 was imposed on him. By this politic step the Nawab restored order among the Marava chiefs. Three *Pradanis* (civil servants) were appointed, Muthia Pillai, Vellu Pillai and Sankaran Pillai. These three *Pradanis* seemed to have held their offices in a collective capacity. The Sethupathi being too young to assert his authority, these three *Pradanis* neglected the state affairs. The next *Pradani* Muthirulappa Pillai took the sole responsibility of Administration. He realised that he should placate the British in order to bring effective internal reforms, since the British were having the leading strings of the Nawab in their hands. To prove his loyalty to the ruler he paid the tribute regularly and reformed the revenue system. He allocated a handsome sum for charitable endowments and it was he who completed the construction of the Chokkatan Mandapam in the Rameswaram temple.

*The Company's Rule:*—In 1790, the Madras Government of the East India Company finding it cumbersome to induce the Nawab to pay his share of the Company's expenses, which the latter incurred with regard to the administration of military undertakings in the so called Nawab's territory, assumed by proclamation the management of the Nawab's territory and established the Board of Assigned Revenues to administer the revenues. In September 1790 Mc. Leod was appointed to supervise the collection of revenues in the Madura Province.<sup>1</sup> From this day onwards the British did not loose their hold on the Madurai country for a single day. Mc. Leod schemed to increase the tribute that was paid by the Sethupathi. In March 1791, the amount was raised to Rs. 2,20,000. The Sethupathi found the tribute too heavy for him and then came to pass the formal surrender of the Ramanathapuram to the Company by a treaty in 1792. The company promptly despatched a force led by Col. Martinz to occupy the country. Martinz occupied a bungalow in the heart of the town, on the bank of *Mugavai Urani*.<sup>2</sup> Ramanathapuram was formally occupied. This step was taken to put down any disaffection that may crop up.

Muthirulappa Pillai, whose loyalty to the Company has already been referred to, won the favour of Col. Martinz. As his intimacy with the Colonel increased, he grew haughty and arrogant. The

1. He may be called the first Collector to have jurisdiction over Ramanathapuram.

2. This building still extant, bears the name Sankara Vilas or Colonel's Bungalow.—A Painting showing the Colonel in his military dress with his petty Officers and the Sethupathi with the queen can be seen in the Sethupathi's palace. "Ramalinga vilasam".



Sethupathi thought it politic to dismiss Muthirulappa Pillai and appoint Muthu Kumarappa Pillai. Muthirulappa Pillai, however, was soon ascribed in the services of the East India Company in the capacity of 'Renter of British Revenues'.

It should be pointed out that the treaty of 1792 established only an indirect control of the company over Ramanathapuram. But the latter events show that the Company did not have any intention of leaving the Sethupathi with even minor powers. So after three years, the Company for reasons not clear, deposed Muthuramalinga Sethupathi. Raja Rama Rao, author of the *Ramnad Manual* says "the Sethupathi showed a disposition to rebel against the Government and the Board rebuked the Collector in rather strong terms for delaying to report to them the rebellious conduct of the Zamindar". A letter from E. Sanders, President of the Revenue Board, dated 18th February, 1795, to the Collector Powney, refers to the deposition of the Sethupathi and to the question of succession, but fails to give any clue as to the immediate cause for the deposition. In the absence of any concrete evidence it can be said that the takeover of Ramanathapuram was a part of the consolidation programme of the Company after their victory in the Anglo-French conflict which kept them preoccupied all these years. According to local traditions it is said that the Sethupathi was secretly supporting the rebel poligar, Kattabomman of Panjalankurichi<sup>2</sup>.

The Collector Powney sent Muthirulappa Pillai<sup>1</sup> the former Pradani to conduct an enquiry and the Sethupathi was deposed in 1795. The correspondence that went on between the Collector and the Revenue Board reveal that the Company had successfully applied the dictum *Divide at Impera* by getting themselves involved in the intrigues of the Sethupathi's *menage*. When the succession question came up they skilfully played one against the other. The Sethupathi had two sisters Mangaleswari Nachiar and Parvatha Vardhani Nachiar. The Company after a protracted enquiry decided in favour of Mangaleswari Nachiar, but it took eight long years to install her on the throne. Meanwhile the Company administered Ramanathapuram directly.

Muthuramalinga Sethupathi the deposed, was sent to Madras and after 6 years, he died there in 1801. Mention should be made about the Sethupathi's charitable and endowment works, which made the period of his reign significant in the cultural and social history of Ramanathapuram. For the first time *Chatrams* sprang up in Devipatnam, Attangarai, Pillai Madam, Ramasami Madam, Naganathasamudram, Sikkal, Kadugusandai, Muthuramalinga Patnam and Kottai Pattinam. The *Chatrams* at Alanganur,

1. Raja Rama Rao — *Ramnad Manual*, Page 244.

2. Kattabomman, the poligar of Panjalankurichi and the moving spirit behind the poligar risings of Tirunelveli successfully defied the Company for 7 years until he was captured and hanged in October 1801.

3. The Statues of Muthurulappa Pillai and his assistant Krishna Iyengar can be still seen in the Rameswaram Temple.

Paramagudi and Mudukanakulam were provided with generous grants. Renovations and repairs were executed in the temples at Rameswaram, Tiruchuli, Kamudi and other places. Nearly 30 villages were granted to the brahmins who were carrying on the work in the temples.

The interregnum that followed the deposition of Sethupathi lasted for eight years (1795—1803), during which period Ramanathapuram was directly administered by the East India Company. It appears that the Company deliberately contrived the interregnum so that there can be a hiatus in the rule of the Sethupathi dynasty which will increase the loyalty of the dynasty to the Company and minimise the chances of an insurrection. Paradoxically enough this period marked the occurrence of the most sanguinary revolts against the authority of the Company.

Even since the company's forces intervened in the native politics<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Nawab of Arcot, Tirunelveli and the neighbouring territory became the venue of constant warfare. The poligars, who were virtually independent during the Nayak rule, refused to bow down to the authority of the Nawab and then the Company. The poligars<sup>2</sup> disputed with the English the sovereignty of Tirunelveli and the adjoining territory. The disaffection soon spread to Ramanathapuram also. As a result of the uprising there was unprecedented fall in the revenues in the Zamindari. The rising, which had its origin in Tirunelveli, now and then spread to Ramanathapuram and finally after the Tirunelveli *Palayams* were over-powered Sivaganga became the citadel of resistance to the British.

Veerapandiya Kattabomman, poligar of Panjalankurichi<sup>3</sup> defied the authority of the Company and refused to pay the demanded *kist*. He provoked the Company by conducting plundering raids into the territories of the Company and the Pro-British poligars. Ramanathapuram was also subjected to such raids<sup>4</sup>. To settle accounts with him Collector Jackson summoned the poligar to Kuttalam where the former was then camping. But the Collector harassed the poligar by evading a meeting with him. After a number of such evasions, the Collector met Kattabomman at Ramanathapuram on 9th September 1788. In the beginning of the interview itself the poligar realised that nothing fruitful would be coming out of the meeting and hastened to withdraw from the presence of the Collector. In the *melee* that ensued Lieut. Clarke was killed. Then the poligar and his retinue plundered

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1. Lieut. Innis led an expedition on behalf of the Nawab, into Tirunelveli in 1751.

2. Sethupathi was the head of the poligars.

3. He came to power on 2nd February 1790. Caldwell History of Tinnevely, 1811—page 173.

4. Chandrasekaran—Kattabomman Varalarn—1960, page 10—and Tinnevely Gazetteer—1917—page 79.

Ramanathapuram with vengeance, and made for his fortress<sup>1</sup>. The next Collector who assumed office on 12th June 1799, Stephen Rumbold Lushington recommended to the Government an expedition against the truculent poligar. Since the Company could spare a large number of soldiers after the fall of Srirangapattam in May 1799, a strong contingent was despatched under Major Bannerman. Panjalankurichi fort was invested and the poligar fled to Sivaganga and from thence to Pudukkottai. Tondaiman Raja of Pudukkottai, however, preferred to help the British and captured the fugitives at their hide out near Kalipoor and handed them over to the British. After a mockery of trial Kattabomman was hanged at Kayathar in the presence of all the other poligars.

The two brothers of Kattabomman Kumarasamy Nayaka *alias* Oomaithurai and Suppa Nayaka *alias* Sivathaiya escaped from Palayamkottai prison on 2nd February 1801 after more than a year's imprisonment<sup>2</sup>. Oomaithurai also known as Oomaian since he was taciturn by nature, is a celebrated character in the ballads. He was as defiant as his elder brother<sup>3</sup>. Soon 5,000 of his adherents rallied round him and they with remarkable energy rebuilt the Panjalankurichi fort, "the Gibraltar of the insurgents" as it came to be called. Macaulay could not bring them down with his forces and waited for reinforcements from Tiruchirapalli. Meanwhile the insurgents took full advantage of the respite and took the outlying forts one after another until they had in their control Tuticorin. Lieutenant Col. Agnew joined Macaulay and successfully stormed the fort. The defenders fled to Sivaganga leaving 450 dead behind them.

It should be noted here that ever since Panjalankurichi challenged the authority of the Company, there were also sympathetic uprisings in Ramanathapuram. On 24th April, when Kattabomman was at the acme of power, the taluk office at Abiramam was attacked by a body of armed men who after setting free two prisoners, wounded the Amildar and disarmed a body of sepoys. The taluk offices at Mudukulattur and Kamudi were also subjected to such *coup-de-main*. The rebels scrupulously avoided doing any harm to the people and showed a keen interest in getting possession of the muskets and matchlocks of the sepoys. This tendency on the part of the raiders gave the clue to company officers. The Company realised that the motive behind these raids was not just plunder, but a deeper one. Lushington and Martinz concluded that these disturbances were sequent to the dethronement of the Sethupathi and the direct rule of the company. Milapen, formerly a *shervagar* under the Sethupathi was the leader of the rebels. Soon the number of the insurgents reached unwieldy

1. T. Chandrasekaran, Kattabomman Varalaru 1960,—page—17.

2. The native ballads give a graphic account of the escapade.

3. Gen. Welsh wrote about him in his *Military Reminiscences* in 1830. "He is one of the most extraordinary mortals. I never knew..... his slightest sign was an oracle and every man flew to execute what he had commanded. No council assembled at which he did not preside no daring adventure was undertaken which he did not lead".

proportions. Appeals of military help was sent by the Collector to Madurai and Palayamkottai. But before this assistance could arrive, the insurgents, now a thousand strong, increased their punitive raids. The poligar of Kadalgudi actively supported the insurgents and sent 300 of his men to Mudukulattur to attack the Company's establishments. The disaffection soon spread to the hitherto unaffected taluks also. Adding to this was the scarcity of foodgrains due to failure of monsoon. It was at this stage on the advice of Lushington<sup>1</sup>, the Government decided to restore Mangaleswari Nachiar of the Sethupathi dynasty acknowledging her hereditary right. This step the Company thought would win the support of the people and may help the Company in posing as the guardian of individual interests. The company expected that the Rani on the throne may serve as a tranquilizer to the war worn Marava country. In 1803 Rani Mangaleswari Natchiar was re-instated on the throne.

*The Marudhu Brother's Revolt:*—When the poligar risings convulsed Tirunelveli and the neighbouring areas, Ramanathapuram was also affected. The Company forces that were despatched under Col. Smith to reduce Ramanathapuram in 1772, marched towards Sivaganga after reducing Ramanathapuram<sup>2</sup>. The ruler of Sivaganga at this period was Muthu Vaduganathar. Having received a fore warning about the Company's scheme, Vaduganatha prepared for the defence of Kalaiyarkoil headquarters. In his efforts he was ably assisted by the Marudhu brothers, Peria Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu<sup>3</sup>. The Company's forces were further augmented by the forces sent by Tondaiman. The defenders heroically withstood the attack. The battle that ensued was made notable by the role played by Velu Nachiar.<sup>4</sup>, wife of Vaduganatha. She came out into the front and gallantly played the role of a defender. The company forces soon overpowered the Sivaganga forces. Vaduganatha lost his life in the struggle.

Evading capture, the Marudhu brothers and Velu Nachiar fled to Dindigul where Hyder Ali received them warmly and gave them asylum<sup>5</sup>. The Nawab annoyed at this alliance allowed the Marudhu brothers and the queen to return to Sivaganga and rule

1. Raja Rama Rao—*Ramnad Manual*, Page 252.

2. Raja Rama Rao—*Ramnad Manual*, page 252.

3. During the reign of Muthu Vijaya Raghunatha one Udaiyar Sorvai *alias* Mokka Palaniappan Servai and his wife Anandhayi *alias* Ponnathal were residing at Ramanathapuram at Kongaru street. Peria Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu were born to them on 1748 and 1753 respectively. They were named Marudhus after the family deity Marudappaswamy (N. Sanjeevi, *Marudiruvar* (Tamil) 1968, pages 41-45).

Caldwell says that at a temple at Nainarkoil in Ramanathapuram a *Siva Lingam* is supposed to have appeared and it came to be known as Marudeswarar or Marudappa. This deity became the family deity of Palaniappa Servai.

Caldwell—*History of Tinnevely*, 1881, page 212-213.

4. Popularly known as வீரமங்கை வேலு நாச்சியார்).

5. Caldwell—*History of Tinnevely*, 1881, page 211.

on condition of regular payment of revenue. The queen, however, passed on the sovereignty of the country to the two brothers in 1780. In the year 1783, the Company despatched a force under Col. Fullarton in order to extract the arrears of revenue. The Marudhu brothers, avoiding an open engagement with the formidable force, took to the woods with 10,000 of their men. Col. Fullarton demanded Rs. 90,000 as indemnity in addition to the arrears and threatened to storm the fort and ravage the country at the non-compliance of the condition. The Marudhus were able to collect 40,000 rupees and promising to pay the rest of the amount later, bought off the Company's forces.

Soon the Marudhu brothers were able to clear off their debt to the Company. From 1783 to 1801 they ruled the country peacefully and devoted their time and money to works of art and social welfare. Chinna Marudhu (the younger Marudhu) was in charge of the administration and soon brought prosperity and peace to the country. The numerous temples and other endowment works carried out by these two brothers speak for the wealth of the country during their period and to their lofty motives<sup>1</sup>. Many public works like tanks, and wells are still attributed to them<sup>2</sup>. Many of the temples built or patronised by them still house their statues and bear their inscriptions<sup>3</sup>. The works of the native bards eulogising the Marudhus have come down to us in the form of ballads and are still current in Ramanathapuram<sup>4</sup>.

On 1801 the long years of peace was disturbed violently. Oomai-thurai and his adherents, after evacuating the Panjalkurichi fort took refuge in Sivaganga. At once the Marudhu brothers agreed to help them. On this, the relationship between the Marudhu brothers and the Company, worsened. Lushington also demanded to produce the documents which entitled the Marudhu brothers to the throne of Sivaganga<sup>5</sup>. The Marudhu brothers had been maintaining very cordial relations with the Panjalkurichi poligar, and Lushington got acquainted with the correspondence that went on between the two. Though Lushington saw the hand of Marudhus in the poligar risings, he thought it wiser to deal with the poligars one by one. And Oomai-thurai's refuge at Sivaganga, offered the Company a splendid opportunity to deal with the two refractory poligars<sup>6</sup>.

1. The tower of the temple at Kalaiyarkoil, 10 miles from Sivaganga from where it is said, the towers of Madurai are visible was built by the Marudhus. The tower at Manamadurai and the Someswaraswami Temple at Kalaiyarkoil owe their existence to these brothers. They endowed Madurai temple with a village, Aviyar Gramam. In Sivaganga they built the *Thirugnana Subramania* temple.

2. The tank called *Anaimadu* at Kalaiyarkoil was renovated. At Kunrakkudi the tank *Marudapuri* was sunk by them.

3. Sanjivi, *Marudiruvor* (Tamil),—1968, pages 69-82.

4. The following stanza is a characteristic one of the ballads.

கருமலையிலே கல்வெடுத்து காளையார் கோவில் உண்டுபண்ணி  
மதுரைக் கோபுரம் தெரியக் கட்டி மருது வாரதைப் பாருங்கடி!

5. Caldwell, *History of Tinnevely*, 1881, pages 214-215.

6. *Ibid*—page 215.

Five days after the fall of Panjalankurichi on 28th May 1801, the forces of the Company mustered at Nagalapuram under the command of Major Shepherd. This force was soon joined by another detachment under Major Grey. The forces of Sivaganga were by this time in full military preparedness. It captured the strong fort at Kamudi, belonging to Ramanathapuram and controlled by the Company. But the fort was soon recaptured by the Company's forces. Designing to attack Sivaganga the Company forces marched towards Tiruppachetti after an indecisive engagement with the forces at Tiruppuvanam. The forces of Marudhus hanging over the flanks of the Company forces throughout their march indulged in snapping. Major Grey fell a victim and a number of officers were seriously injured. Harried by the guerilla tactics of the Sivaganga army, the Company's forces camped at Ramanathapuram where Col. Agnew joined them. Another detachment of the company's forces from Natham joined Agnew's after an engagement with the Sivaganga forces.

By this time the Marudhus had mustered all their strength which consisted of 20,000 men armed with muskets, matchlocks, pikes and other weapons. Agnew, feeling inadequately equipped to fight the Sivaganga forces, asked the Tondaiman for help. Captain Blackburn met the Tondaiman and persuaded him to send a force of 3,500 men under Muthukumara Pillai. Another force of 2,000 was sent from Pudukkottai under the command of Kannavian and Ragunatha Rao.

Agnew was also busy sowing seeds of division among the rebel camp. He met Gowri Vallabha, an adopted son of Velu Nachiar, the dowager queen of Sivaganga, and succeeded in weaning away numerous adherents of the Marudhus.

The combined armies moved towards Siruvayal, a stronghold of the Marudhus. The company's forces had to face the spasmodic and sudden attacks of Sivaganga forces while travelling through the thick woods. Siruvayal was gallantly defended and the Company's forces, consisting of 350 English officers, had to exert all their strength. Ultimately the town fell and when the Company's forces entered it, they found it desolate. Following a scorched earth policy the insurgents had set fire to the town. Then the whole force proceeded towards Kalaiyarkoil, the citadel of the insurgents.

The Marudhu forces were attacking the Company's forces in other fields also. The Tiruppattur Fort fell to the attack of the insurgents, and for a while even Ramanathapuram was threatened. At the same time the Marudhu forces carried on a naval war, though on a small scale, in the Palk straits.<sup>1</sup> Marudhu ordered

1. When Sivaganga was carved out of Ramanathapuram it was agreed that a town on sea coast should be given to the former so that it might have an outlet for commerce. This was the port of Tondi. Thus though Sivaganga country was inland, it came to possess a port.

a number of *dhonies* (small country vessels) to seize all the *dhonies* of the company carrying rice. The cargo thus got was sent to Sivaganga. Lushington ordered the master attendant of Pamban to take effective measures against Sivaganga sea-farers. Thereupon the master attendant improvised a superior naval force and succeeded in capturing and destroying the *dhonies* of the insurgents<sup>1</sup>.

The approach to Kalaiyarkoil was barred by a strength of a thick jungle. The Company's force toiled for 4 days in an attempt to cut their way through the woods, while the Marudhu forces subjected them to constant fire<sup>2</sup>. The insurgents successfully cut the communication lines of the Company's forces. Col. Agnew decided to abandon that approach and withdrew.

The Company's forces captured Piranmalai, a fort of the Marudhus. Then Col. Agnew, drew up a plan for a three pronged attack on Kalaiyarkoil. Col. Innes, Coll Agnew and Col. Spray attacked Kalaiyarkoil from different directions. Unable to withstand the attack, the fort fell in the hands of the Company's forces on 1st October, 1801. From that day onwards the insurgents abandoned all resistance as it was realised to be hopeless. The rest of the story is briefly told. The Marudhus, Oommaithurai and their associates were taken prisoners and were hanged. Other associates (70) in number were transported to Prince of Wales Island<sup>3</sup>.

The subjugation of Sivaganga marked the end of the poligar wars, that were going on for nearly half a century. Lushington, Collector of Tirunelveli proceeded to effect a "settlement" of the country subjugated, which included Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Madurai. All the *palayams* were grouped into zamindari, and the poligars were deprived of their ruling powers and reduced to the position of Zamindars<sup>4</sup>. All the fire arms and other weapons of war were confiscated. The company installed Gowri Vallabha Peria Udaya Thevar as the zamindar of Sivaganga.

Ramanathapuram was also converted into a Zamindari in 1803 and the East India Company deputed Parishes to inform the Queen Mangaleswari Nachiar, the terms of the transfer and of the relationship between the Zamindari and the East India Company. The Queen accepted her position and the revenue was fixed at Rs.3,24,404. Parishes in his despatches wrote, "In order that she might fully comprehend the benefit, which the execution of this system would confer on her, I explained the principles of the new arrangements in the fullest manner by stating that her country would be secured to her under a Sunnad beyond the power of any

1. Caldwell History of Tinnevely.—page 216.

2. Col. Welsh's journal of each days proceeding gives a graphic account of the whole episode.

3. The Marudhu brothers were hanged on the highest bastion in the fort at Tirupattur. Oommaithurai and others were hanged on a mound near the site of the Panjalankurichi fort.

4. Proclamation issued on 1st December, 1801, by the Governor-in-Council-Lord Olive,

person to take any part of it from her. The assessment she was to pay was fixed for ever and that, however, extensive, might be the fruits of her own good management and industry, no increase would be demanded from her or from her children<sup>1</sup>. After a period of four years, which was marked by Mangaleswari's benefaction to temples and brahmins, she died in 1807. During her reign she was ably assisted in the management of the zamin by her *Pradani*, Thiagaraja Pillai.

The Rani's will was executed on 11th April 1807 and her adopted son Annaswami Thevar succeeded with the name Muthu Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi<sup>2</sup>.

Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi was a minor when his mother died and Thiagaraja Pillai, the *Pradani*, acted as the Regent. After Ragunatha attained majority, Sivagami Nachiar, the daughter of Muthu Ramalinga Sethupathi, filed a suit in the Company's Court putting forward a claim to the Zamin. Ragunatha spent a greater part of his reign (1807—1820), in expensive litigations. The Company who had formerly deposed Muthu Ramalinga, recognised the claim of his daughter, Sivagami. But she allowed the revenue to fall into arrears and the estate was taken over by the court of Sadar Adalut. Ragunatha, meanwhile died in February 1820, after adopting a son, Ramaswami Thevar, a brother of one of his wives, Muthu Veerayi Nachiar.

Ragunatha's widow pursued the case further. The appellate court upheld her claim in 1829 and the Sadar Adalut handed over the estate to Ramaswami on the 23rd April 1829. Ragunatha's wife on receiving the estate, richly endowed the Rameswaram temple. A few months later in the same year Ramaswami died leaving his widow, Parvathavardhani, and two daughters Mangaleswari Nachiar and Dorairaja Nachiar. After his death, his mother Muthuveerayi Nachiar and his brother Muthu Chella Thevar managed the estate on behalf of Ramaswami's daughter Mangaleswari Nachiar. These two girls of Ramaswami died at an young age. Meanwhile, Muthu Chella Thevar was charged with mismanagement and the Court of Wards took over the administration. In 1846, the Company recognised Parvathavardhani, widow of Ramaswami as the successor to the estate. Various claimants to the estate challenged her title and filed suits. But Parvathavardhani's title as the heir to the estate was upheld in all the cases<sup>3</sup>.

Parvathavardhani Nachiar ruled for sixteen years (1846—1862), and in the administrative field she was ably assisted by Kottaisami Thevar, her brother who was appointed as the manager of the estate. On 24th May 1857, Parvathavardhani adopted her sister's son named Muthu Ramalinga Thevar. The Company declared

1. Raja Rama Rao : *Ramnad Manual*, page 255.

2. The Rani, acting under written agreement between her and her husband Ramaswami Thevar who died in 1797, adopted Annaswami in 1804.

3. See the *Sivaganga Zamindari*, its origin and litigation 1730 to 1866—1899.



the adoption invalid, but this order was cancelled after sometime. Muthuramalinga's title was challenged by two members of the Sethupathi family and the case was taken before the judicial committee of the Privy Council, which gave its decision in favour of Muthuramalinga in 1868. Pending the decision of the Council, Muthuramalinga became the Sethupathi in 1862, during the lifetime of the Rani who died in 1871. By this time the territorial possessions of the East India Company had been passed on to the British Crown by a proclamation from the crown in 1858.

During the days of the Company and the Crown, disputes about succession became the order in Ramanathapuram. Muthuramalinga had spent quite fortune in litigation and found himself unable to pay large amount of revenue that had accumulated. He appealed to the Government clarifying his position. The Government in 1871 appointed Lee Warner as Special Assistant Collector in charge of the estate. On the 21st February 1873 Muthuramalinga Sethupathi died leaving two minor sons, Bhaskaraswami Sethupathi and Dinakaraswami Thevar. Bhaskaraswami being only 4 years old, the estate was taken over by the Court of Wards. The Government decided to advance a loan to the estate management to enable it to pay of the arrears of revenue. In 1876 Ramanathapuram Zamin was in the grips of severe famine and this was followed by heavy rains and floods. The Collection of revenue was rendered all most difficult. The Government sanctioned a further loan of Rs. 2,00,000, to be spent in the improvement of irrigation works. However, only Rs. 19,000 were spent out of this amount. Arrears of revenue and the loan rose upto Rs. 14,42,830. in 1879. The Government considering that the maintenance of an European officer was too costly, introduced Indian officers. Accordingly Raja Rama Rao <sup>1</sup> was appointed to manage the estate in the grade of a third class Deputy Collector. All the arrears were repaid by 1890. By 1889, Bhaskarasethupathi who had by this time, attained majority was formally installed to the hereditary seat of the Sethupathi. The estate then had a surplus of 3½ lakhs in the treasury.

#### THE SETHUPATHIS AS PATRONS OF ART AND CULTURE.

The Sethupathis not only distinguished themselves by their numerous grants to temples but also are well-known for their patronage of poets and artists. Tradition associates Thayumanavar, a Hindu saint and poet, with the Marava country.

An interesting anecdote connects the poet—saint in the politics of the Marava country. By 1662, the Portuguese managed to set up a settlement in Rameswaram. Thayumanavar realised the danger of allowing the foreigners to hold Rameswaram. He came to Ramanathapuram in December, 1662. He persuaded a number of chiefs

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1. Author of the *Ramnad Manual*.

to rally round Ragunatha Sethupathi, and a formidable force of 30,000 maravas marched towards Rameswaram. The saint went in advance and asked the Portuguese to withdraw. The Portuguese captain was adamant. But soon the appearance of a Dutch fleet off Rameswaram made the Captain to vacate. The Sethupathi was declared the protector of the Island.

The saint wanted the Marava chiefs to maintain the unity. To evolve a code of conduct in the presence of the saint, all the chiefs assembled in the gardens of the Sethupathi. The gardeners while cleaning the ground during night failed to notice the saint who was lost in meditation there, and heaping the leaves on him, set fire. The Saint was burnt. There is another version of the event.

It is said that he lived a life of a hermit in the solitude of the forests. The Sethupathi, while on a hunting trip mistook the saint in trance to be a dead body and ordered cremation. The fire woke up the saint from the trance. He was severely burnt and he was furious. He pronounced a curse on the line of Sethupathi that he and his successors would not live the full span of life. This episode is handed down by oral tradition. The indubitable evidence supporting the association of Thayumanavar with Ramanathapuram is the inscription at Lakshmipuram temple<sup>1</sup>. The temple also houses a stone-image of the saint. According to the date given by the inscription, Thayumanavar can be said to have been a contemporary of Tirumalai Sethupathi (1647-1672).

Another poet, Javvadu Pulavar, a Muslim, seems to have been a contemporary of Tirumalai. Tradition has it that when the Sethupathi was stricken with smallpox the poet composed in praise of *Rajeswari* a poem called *Rajeswari Pancharathnam* and hastened the recovery of the Sethupathi. Another work attributed to him is *Mohideen Andavar Pillai Tamil*. He is said to have been a native of Omaneswaram.

Tirumalai Sethupathi patronised two more poets also. Alagiya Chitrabala Kavirayar of Mithilaipatti sang in praise of the Sethupathi, titled *Talasinga Malai* which gives a clear and valuable picture of the personality of Tirumalai. Amuda Kavirayar composed a *Kovai* (a kind of love-poem) on Ragunatha Sethupathi (1672-1673) titled *Ragunatha Sethupathi Oru Thurai Kovai*. Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-1710) is said to have patronised a poet called Padikkasan, who composed two works in praise of his patron, the *Tandalavar Satakam* and the *Tondaimandala Satakam*. Umaru Pulavar of Kilakkarai the author of *Sirapuranam* appears to have been a contemporary of Padikkasan. *Sirapuranam* a work containing 5,000 stanzas in Tamil deals with the life of Mohammed, the prophet. It is claimed

1. சாலி வாஹுன சகாப்தம் 1581-க்கு சுபகிருதுவரு தையர் விசாக நக்ஷத்ரிதத்தில் ஸ்ரீ தாயுமான சுவாமி அவர்களை பரிபூரணம்,

as the first great Tamil work by a Muslim poet. Mention should be made of another famous figure of this period, Peria'hambi Marakayar *alias* Sidakadi Marakayar, who was a wealthy noble of Kilakkarai. It is said that he was holding a high post in Bengal which was offered to him by Aurangzeb. But he relinquished the post due to illness, and accepted the post of Chief Minister under Kilavan Sethupathi. He made himself famous by his philanthropic vities, and by his patronage of poets and artists. A large number of anecdotes about him have been handed down to us by tradition. In addition to the two poets mentioned already, Sidakadi Marakayar patronised one Kandasami Pulavar. Works like *Tiruppuvana Ula*<sup>1</sup> and *Appanur puranam* are attributed to him. Palapattadai Chokkannatha Pulavar also appears to have lived in this period. He was the author of *Tevai ula*<sup>2</sup> and *Uinjai kovai*. *Sakkarai Pulavar* lived in the later half of the 18th century. His important work is *Tiruchendur Kovai*. In the 19th century also a number of poets made their mark in this part of Tamilnad. Mambala Kavirayar who composed a poem in praise of the Sethupathi, Kalpothu Pichu Iyer who was the author of *Tiruvadarai Andadhi*, Somasundaraguruputhor the author of *Tirukkalukkundrathu Kovai*, and Ramanuja Kavirayar, all belong to this period. Of all these poets Ramanuja Kavirayar was by far the greatest, and he made his work as a pioneer in the field of editing and publishing classical Tamil works. Thus he was a fore-runner of U. V. Swaminatha Iyer the great Tamil scholar. Ramanuja Kavirayar published the *Tirukkural* with the commentary of Parimel Azhagar. He helped the European linguists like Thomson Clark, G.U. Pope and Winslow. From Mudukulattur came the poet Peria Saravana Kavirayar. His patron was the *Pradani* Muthirulappa Pillai, who has been celebrated by the poet, in one of his works with an erotic flavour. Another better known work of this poet is *Panavidu Thoodhu*. His son Arunachala Kavirayar and his grandson siriya Saravana Kavirayar were also poets of great merit. Muthuramalinga Sethupathi (1862-1873) and his minister Ponnusamy Thevar patronised Krishna Iyengar, a literary giant of the age. Muthusamy Iyengar<sup>3</sup>, another poet and author of a number of works was honoured by the Maharaja of Mysore. Pandithurai Thevar, the founder of the Madurai Tamil Sangam and Raghava Iyengar<sup>4</sup> were all his students. Sri M. Raghava Iyengar the great scholar and author was Muthuswami Iyengar's son.

The Sethupathis did not reserve their patronage to Tamil only. Sanskrit scholars were given all facilities to settle in the territory of the Sethupathis. Telugu was also patronised in the Court of the earlier Sethupathis. The Nayaks of Madurai, the overlords of the Sethupathis till 1673 had Telugu as their Court language, that being their mother-tongue. Probably, this influenced the Sethupathi also, one

1 and 2. These works were first published by U. V. Swaminatha Iyer.

3. His works include *Chandralokam*, *Manavala Mamuni*, *Nootrandadi*, *Noot-rathu*, *Tirupathi Padigangai* and *Kurukkai Kalambagam*.

4. Author of *Setunadum Tamishum*. (செது நாடும் தமிழும்).

among whom went to the extent of adopting it as the official language, only to be given up later. Tirumalai Sethupathi had many of the estate documents written in Telugu.

Fine arts flourished in the Court of the Sethupathis, Carnatic Music, particularly, was patronised by the Sethupathis, and exponents of this art thronged to the Sethupathi's Court and were benefited by their liberal patronage. Musicians, composers and vocalists alike visited Ramanathapuram frequently, especially in the later years when the Sethupathis were relieved of much of their administrative functions by the British. Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer, Patanam Subramaniya Iyer, Thanjai Narayanasami Appa, and Tirukodika Krishna Iyer to mention only a few, came under the care of the rulers of Ramanathapuram. The introduction of *Navaratri* celebrations by Tirumalai Sethupathi offered a splendid opportunity for the virtuosos to exhibit their skill in the *Sadas* which the Sethupathi arranged everyday during the festival. The name of Sadasiva Brahmendra who lived in the middle of the 18th century, and whose simple Sanskrit devotional songs are still sung with piety up to this day, should be mentioned in this contest. Vidwan Srinivasa Iyengar, popularly known as Poochi Iyengar, a scholar in Tamil, Telugu and Sanskrit, composed songs in Telugu and Sanskrit. He was a past master in *javali* (a form of music). The famous Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar was his disciple. Madurai kavi a composer of Tamil songs, was a contemporary of the Marudhu brother's and was patronised both in Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram. Specially gifted in composing *padams* this musician composed many Tamil *kirtanams* (worship songs) on Goddess Meenakshi. Kavi Kunjara Iyer the Author of *Azhagar Kuravanji* was one of his disciples. Kottaisami Thevar, the *Pradani* patronised Subramanya Kavirayar the author of *Thirumana Kuravanji*. His disciple Malavarayanendal Chinnaasami Iyer composed the famous *Periapurana Kirtanai*. Muthuramalinga Sethupathi was himself a musician of no mean merit and his works in this field include *Gayakai Priya* and *Rasika Ranjanam*. He was also skilled in Hindustani Classical Music.

Along with the classical music, the art of Bharata Natyam also received a fillip during the days of the Sethupathis. Some of the Sethupathis themselves learnt this art. Tirumalai Sethupathi was given the title Bharata Nataka *Praveena*. Some of the wall paintings of Ramalinga Vilasam depict Bharatha Natya poses.

The numerous murals that adorn the walls of Ramalinga Vilasam speak eloquently about the interest evinced by the Sethupathis in painting and other arts. These panels have considerable historical value also. One panel depicts a scene of battle between the Marava forces and the Thanjavur forces. There are also panels depicting Col. Matinz's visit to Ramanathapuram, and the pearl fishery in the Gulf of Manar.

## RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

The advent of British rule was greeted with stern opposition in Ramanathapuram and the neighbouring territories. After winning over a few of the chiefs and depriving the Sethupathi of his ruling powers, the British Collector issued the proclamation of 1801 by which the people were asked to surrender their arms. This was the first step to curb their desire to resist the alien Government. Any resistance to the British was put down with an iron hand.

But the on set of the wave of resistance came with the non-cooperation movement. The century that elapsed between these two landmarks was uneventful.

During this interregnum forces were at work which presaged the risings to come. These historical forces manifested themselves in the form of a religio-cultural renaissance, which eventually became nationalistic and political. In the vanguard of the movement were Swami Vivekananda<sup>1</sup> and his associates. A disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, the fore runner of this Hindu revival, Swami Vivekananda roused the Indians to their responsibilities as citizens of India and inheritors of her great culture. Vedanta societies with the motto 'back to the Vedas' were established all over India.

The Ramanathapuram estate at this period was ruled by Bhaskara Sethupathi (1889—1903), the man who won for himself a permanent place in India's, cultural renaissance. Ramanathapuram from the time it was taken over by the British, had been passing through what may be called a period of political stagnation. The Sethupathi had been deprived of all his ruling powers and the British were in firm control of the kingdom. Within the limits drawn by the British, the Sethupathi tried to play the role of a benevolent and far-sighted ruler and tried to effect a cultural renaissance. The *Navaratri* festival once again became popular. It was celebrated with all pomp and splendour. A fresh impetus was given to fine arts. The Sethupathi was keenly interested in religious activities. He was attracted by Vivekananda's ideas and arranged for his tour of the kingdom. His visit to Ramanathapuram is the starting point of a nation-wide, cultural revival and social reformation of the 19th century. This visit was of profound significance to Ramanathapuram in particular and to South India in general. Bhaskara Sethupathi was very much responsible for widening the sphere of Vivekananda's activity by arranging for the Saint Leader's tour of America. In the words of Vivekananda himself ".....it was he who conceived the idea of my going to Chicago. It was he that put that idea into my head and persistently urged me to accomplish it."

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1. Originally his name was Narendranath Dutt.

Ramanathapuram was the first place to be visited by Vivekananda after his historic trip to the United States. Sethupathi accorded a royal welcome to the Saint, at Pamban. Then Vivekananda toured the kingdom, and delivered speeches at Pamban, Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, and other places<sup>1</sup>. Vivekananda's tour, which lasted for many days left a deep impression upon the minds of the people.<sup>2</sup>

The year 1887 witnessed the third Session of the Indian National Congress in Madras. Members from Tamilnad included T. Madhava Rao, S. Subramania Iyer, Rungiah Naidu, G. Subramania Aiyar, C. Vijayaraghavachariar and Sabapathy Mudaliyar. A number of resolutions demanding the expansion of legislature, the separation of the judiciary from the executive and other progressive legislations, were passed. A machinery to carry on nation-wide propaganda was set up. The press also popularised the view points of the Congress. Dailies like 'The Hindu' and *Swadesamitran* began to criticise the Government vehemently. District conferences under the auspices of the Congress were held under the inspiring guidance of leaders like P. S. Sivasami Ayyar, G. Subramaniya Ayyar and T. Madhava Rao. Topics of National importance were discussed in these conferences and they were very similar to the subjects discussed in the sessions of the Indian National Congress.

The Ramanathapuram District at this period witnessed a cultural and National awakening. The events in the neighbouring districts powerfully influenced the people of Ramanathapuram and men like Pandithurai Thevar set an example by supporting nationalistic causes. Born on 21st March, 1867, at Palavanatham, a zamin, in the Ramanathapuram District, Pandithurai Thevar (1867—1911) *alias* Ukkira Pandya was the son of Ponnusamy Thevar. He was closely related to Bhaskara Sethupathi. In the year 1884 he became the Zamindar of Palavanatham. He fully utilised his power and position to the development of Tamil literature and music. He financed the publication of *Abhidana Sintamani* and *Pannootiriratu*. On 4th September, 1901, Pandithurai Thevar founded the *Mathurai Tamil Sangam* at Madurai which came to be praised as the Fourth Tamil Sangam. Bhaskara Sethupathi, the Raja of Ramanathapuram gave valuable financial assistance to this Sangam. Scholars like R. Raghavaiyengar, M. Raghava Iyengar and Narayana Ayyangar were closely associated with this academy. A number of research works were published under the auspices of Tamil Sangam.

1. These speeches were published by the Ramakrishna Mission. But even before that a publisher from Madras had brought them out in the form of a book entitled "From Colombo to Almora".

2. A monument, commemorating the saint's visit can be seen at Rameswaram. It reads "Satyameva Jayathè". This monument erected by Bhaskara Sethupathi, the Raja of Ramnad marks the sacred spot where his holiness Swami Vivekananda's blessed feet trod on Indian soil together with the English disciples of his Holiness after his return from the western hemisphere where glorious and unprecedented success attended his holiness.

Sankara Vilas (inside the Ramanathapuram Palace) contains a portrait of the Saint commemorating his stay in the building.

The last few years of the 19th Century and the first few years of the 20th Century may well be described as a period which marked the birth of nationalism. The Indian National Congress, which was started in 1885, had two different schools expressly manifested themselves. The extremist school led by Bala Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, stood for bold assertion of rights with the strength of the mass of the people as opposed to the views of the moderates. The ideas of these two stalwarts had a profound impact on South India. Subramania Bharathi wielded his facile pen, and his poems evoked a keen sense of nationalism. V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, and Subramanya Siva, the twin leaders of Tirunelveli were carrying on a programme of political education.

Before the extremist school could develop and chalk out definite programme, the whole political atmosphere of the country was changed by the vivisection of Bengal in 1905. The nationalists of the extreme school adopted the twin weapons of *swadeshi* and boycott to achieve their political ends.

With a view to strike a blow at the monopoly of trade by the British, wherein as it was thought, lay the roots of British imperialism, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company. The local merchant community gave him active assistance. On 25th July 1906, while addressing a meeting in Shiyali in the Tanjore District, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, made public his intention to start a navigation company and invited subscribers. This meeting was presided by Pandithurai Thevar. On 16th October 1906, the Company was registered under the name Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company. Pandithurai Thevar was the President and Officiating Secretary of this Company. But the Company had to close down soon as it was not able to face the onslaughts on it by the already well settled foreign firms.

From 1914, the Home Rule League began to have its sway in the political field of Tamilnad. Its professed aspects were *Swadeshi*, boycott of foreign goods, temperance, national education, labour welfare and Home Rule (responsible government). Under the leadership of Dr. Annie Besant, Arundale, B.P. Wadia and S. Subramaniya Aiyar, the League spread its ideologies through the numerous theosophical lodges that were scattered all over the Presidency<sup>1</sup>. Through her paper '*New India*' Dr. Annie Besant carried on her relentless struggle against the Government. The Ramanathapuram District also came under these political influences. The recruitment of men to the war was met with apathy in the District. In Ramanathapuram many recruiting sessions ended in violence<sup>2</sup>. In Sivaganga, there was organised obstruction to and assaults on recruiting party. The local police and the revenue authorities also

1. G.O. No. 842-843, Public (Confidential), 15th September, 1918.

2. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 16th August, 1915.

were apathetic towards it and the people grew more and more critical of the Government when forcible methods were used. Home rule meetings were continued to be held and the volunteers of the League carried on propaganda in the District. In 1916 Home Rule League launched the signature campaign for the "Monster" petition demanding self-government and this was signed by many people in the Ramanathapuram District.<sup>1</sup>

Muthuramalinga Sethupathi, the Raja of Ramnad, also came under the Home Rule League's influence. He became a member of the Madras Land Owners' Association, a body which included most of the Zamindars of Madras Presidency. The Association had the active support of K. V. Rangasamy Ayyangar of the Indian Legislative Council and who was also the organising Secretary of the Home Rule Movement. In November 1917, Muthuramalinga Sethupathi presided over a meeting of this Association. The object of which was to discuss a memorandum to be laid before the Secretary of State for Madras. The memorandum was substantially on the lines of the Congress and the Muslim League Scheme. It pleaded for more financial powers to the Legislative Council and said that any resolution if passed two times successfully should be binding on the Executive. Another clause advocated that the status of leading Zamindars in the Presidency should be raised to that of ruling chiefs. The Home Rule League also supported this clause.<sup>2</sup> The Maharaja of Bobbili was closely associated with this organisation.<sup>3</sup> But Muthuramalinga Sethupathi supported the Government with regard to its war policy. He assisted the Government in its recruitment campaign. But recruitment from Kallars and Maravas, was very poor. Many Kallar recruits of the Queen's own sappers and miners brought with the complaint that they were irregularly paid. And as a result the recruitment campaign became very unpopular.<sup>4</sup> The Sethupathi contributed a handsome amount to the war fund.

The Home Rule Movement, however, continued to gain ground in Tamilnad. The active part played by Tilak in this movement made it all the more popular. The year 1916 saw the formation of a new movement namely the Non-Brahmin Movement. This came to be called South Indian Liberal Federation or the Justice Party. It was more moderate than the Congress Party, and stood for the attainment of Self-government through constitutional methods. In December, 1916, this party issued its manifesto in which it attacked the Home Rule Movement and branded it as a device of the brahmins to monopolise the political power. The prominent leaders of this party were P. Thyagaraya Chetty, President of the South India Chamber of Commerce and

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1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential) dated 16th February, 1917.

2. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 16th August, 1915.

3. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 19th November, 1917.

4. *Ibid*, dated 3rd December, 1917.

5. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 4th February, 1918.



Dr. T. M. Nair. The party published a journal called the "Non-Brahmin" and shortly afterwards a paper called "Justice". The first issue was published on 26th February, 1917. The adherents of the party travelled throughout Tamilnad and gained many supporters. The appeal, which the Justice Party made to the large sections of non-brahmins, that the predominance of the brahmin leaders in the Home Rule and the Congress Movements, and the over representation in the services were matters demanding the notice of all non-brahmins won many adherents to the party.

During this period there was great political activity in the whole country. This was, among other factors, due to the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 from South Africa after many Satyagraha campaigns carried out for worthy causes, the capture of the Congress by the extremist in its Lucknow Session (1916), the declaration of war by England, and finally the passing of what is known as the Rowlatt Act (1919), which armed the Government with powers to arrest and detain any person without trial<sup>1</sup>. The agitation that was started against the Rowlatt Act later turned against the Punjabi Commission also<sup>2</sup>. This and the Khilafat question gave rise to the Non-Co-operation Movement. The Khilafat Movement was the direct outcome of the wars at the end of which the Sultan of Turkey was shorn of his powers as Caliph in the Muslim World.

Mahatma Gandhi who had by this time become the unquestioned leader of India, launched his famous Satyagraha campaign as a part of the Khilafat Movement in February 1919, as a result of which Non-Co-operation with and passive resistance to the Government were preached every where. Through the Khilafat Movement, he first experimented his weapon of Non-Co-operation.

In the first year, (1920) the Non-Co-Operation Movement did not find much support in the Ramanathapuram District. Noticing this trend the local nationalists tried to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to visit the District<sup>3</sup>. In September—October 1921 Mahatma Gandhi and Shaikat Ali visited Tamilnad. In the Ramanathapuram District he attracted very large crowds and volunteers had prepared the ground for his visit<sup>4</sup>. But financially his tour of Ramanathapuram was not much of success<sup>5</sup>. Among other things Mahatma Gandhi laid emphasis on boycott of councils, suspension of practice by lawyers,

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1. Satyapal and Prabodh Chandra—Sixty years of Congress, 1946, page 224.

2. The Non-Co-operation and the Khilafat Movements (Secret), page I.

3. The Non-Co-operation and Khilafat Movement in Madras Presidency (Confidential), page 12.

4. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 6th October, 1921.

5. *Ibid.*

resignation of posts in Civil, Police and Military Services, Temperance Movement and boycott of foreign goods. Anti-drinking campaign was started in Ramanathapuram in 1920 and persisted even after it has subsided in other districts<sup>1</sup>. In Sivaganga four clerks resigned from Government Service<sup>2</sup>. After the inspiring visit of Mahatma Gandhi, the Movement received a fillip in the district, picketing of liquor shops and auction sale of toddy shops were carried on. As a result, the turnover of toddy shops dwindled and even for a very low price there was nobody to bid. The Madurai Nadar Sangam, a body professing to be a society for social reforms for the Nadars, conducted vigorous campaign against liquor shops<sup>3</sup>. Hundreds of volunteers signed the pledge to adhere to the principles of Non-Co-Operation Movement, and work for them in the Ramanathapuram district<sup>4</sup>. Political agitation became more intense and in some places this led to violence. The Government noted that crime was on the increase in Ramanathapuram during this period.

Side by side the Non-Brahmin Movement, was making itself felt. The representatives of the Justice Party held a conference at Tiruchirappalli in August, 1923. Muthuramalinga Sethupathi, the Raja of Ramanathapuram, presided over the conference. Sri P. Thyagaraya Chettiar also took a leading part in the conference and a resolution demanding the adequate representation of Tamilians in the Ministry was passed<sup>5</sup>. In the same year, in December, the District Congress Conference was held in Ramanathapuram<sup>6</sup>.

Mention should be made, at this context of S. Srinivasa Ayyengar who was taking a leading part in the political developments along with C. Vijayaraghavachariyar, and Kasthuriranga Ayyengar. Born in Ramanathapuram on 11th September, 1874, S. Srinivasa Ayyengar, after a brilliant academic career, became the Advocate-General of India in 1916—which post he held for four years. After the Congress Session at Nagpur in 1920, he began to take a leading role in the Congress. Thiru K. Kamaraj Nadar, who had by this time started taking part in the activities of the nationalists, conducted meetings, in the southern districts. In Tirunelveli he conducted many such meetings, and collected funds for the Congress Party. He took an active part in the Non-Co-Operation Movement in Madurai.

Meanwhile the Non-Co-Operation and the Khilafat Movements suddenly came to an end. There was disagreement in the Congress regarding council entry and the Kilafat Movement was brought to

1. *Ibid.*, dated 1st November, 1921.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Non-Co-operation and Khilafat Movement in Madras Presidency (Confidential), page 20.

4. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 6th January, 1922.

5. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 1st September, 1923.

6. *Ibid.*, dated 17th December, 1923.

an end when Kemal Pasha of Turkey abolished the Khalifa. But the agitation for Swaraj continued. The nationalist movements expressed themselves in various fields and the zeal of the people was kept up in the Ramanathapuram district. Though in many other districts the anti-drink campaign had been given up, in Ramanathapuram and other southern districts, it was relentlessly carried on<sup>1</sup>. By the end of 1922, there was an increase in the number of political agitation in the district. In May 1923 Devadas Gandhi and Thiru C. Rajagopalachari arrived in Madras and went on a tour of the southern districts. They conducted meetings in various places<sup>2</sup>. C. R. Doss also visited Madras to effect a compromise between the two groups in the Congress<sup>3</sup>. By the end of 1923, a local Congress conference was held in Ramanathapuram<sup>4</sup>. Temperance Movements were also carried on. Both the Maravars and Nadars organised Temperance Movements in Ramanathapuram<sup>5</sup>. The Hindu Muslim tension affected Ramanathapuram also. In 1923 riot broke out between these two communities in a procession of Mariamman at Aruppukkottai. A meeting organised in Sivaganga by a Muslim from Madurai ended in a fiasco<sup>6</sup>.

Tamilnad was experiencing an awakening in the social plane also. The famous Satyagraha at Vaikom in 1928 and the new ideas it engendered spread in Tamilnad. It started as a protest against the prohibition, against the use of certain roads by particular castes. Thiru E. V. Ramaswamy popularly known as Thanthai Periyars George Joseph and the Malabar leader Kesava Menon took a leading part in the Movement. This Movement was given great prominence in the Press<sup>7</sup>.

Thus, by various methods and movements people were kept conscious of their ultimate goal, Swaraj. The next major step in India's march towards independence was the Civil Disobedience Movement. Gandhiji introduced his plan for Civil Disobedience Movement, in the forty-fourth Congress Session at Lahore in 1929. The refusal of the British Government to promise dominion status for India sparked off the Movement. Gandhiji wrote "On bended knees I asked for bread and I received a stone instead"<sup>8</sup>. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who had already made his mark as a leader of the Nation, issued a resolution on behalf of the Congress Working Committee in which he stated "We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people as any other people to have freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their toil.....we, therefore, hereby solemnly

1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 18th April 1922.

2. *Ibid.*, dated 16th May 1923.

3. *Ibid.*, dated 16th June 1923.

4. *Ibid.*, dated 17th December 1923.

5. *Ibid.*, dated 19th August 1924.

6. *Ibid.*, dated 4th May 1925.

7. *Ibid.*, dated 16th April 1924.

8. S. Satyapal and Prabodh Chandra-sixty years of Congress, 1946, [Page 299.

resolve to carry out the Congress instructions issued from time to time for the purpose of establishing Swaraj". On 1st January 1930, Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the flag of Independence amidst shouts of 'inquilab zindabad'. It was decided to celebrate 26th January as Independence Day every year<sup>1</sup>. It was further declared that the way to Swaraj was not through violence, but through civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes. The declaration at Lahore Congress was followed by gradually intensifying propaganda in the form of speeches and meetings. It may be said that the Movement became very active only after the famous Dandi March of Gandhiji<sup>2</sup>.

A wave of nationalism swept through the country leaving in its wake, mass meetings, Satyagraha and no-tax campaign. Ramanathapuram also played its due role in the movement. From 26th January 1930, the public mind was prepared for agitation by processions and meetings. The major programme of the nationalists was the Salt Satyagraha. In Ramanathapuram the ground was prepared towards the end of March 1930 by meetings at Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar, Sattur, Karaikkudi and many other smaller towns where the speakers explained the ideals and methods of the Civil Disobedience Movement. To begin with, there was no extraction of salt in Ramanathapuram Coast. A number of volunteers were sent from this district to Vedaranyam where Thiru C. Rajagopalachariar led a party of hundred volunteers to conduct Salt Satyagraha. However, many volunteers poured in for this Satyagraha, only one hundred people were selected. The volunteers from Ramanathapuram, however, were not included in the group. The Revenue Divisional Officer and the District Superintendent of Police toured the district and did counter propaganda. The Chairman of the Union Board at Rajapalayam was the moving spirit behind the Movement in the District. The Government was unable to control him, since it was powerless against the Chairman. The District Magistrate, H.S. Shield, pointed out this and called for a modification of the law.

Meanwhile Gandhiji had planned the Dandi March and, the leaders and volunteers poured into Dandi in the first week of April. Gandhiji arrived at Dandi on 5th April and declared that he would conduct Satyagraha at the Salt depot at Dharsana. Gandhiji was arrested and taken to Yervada prison. As a sequel to this there were fresh hartals and protest meetings. Some of the local leaders were also arrested. Efforts in Salt Satyagraha were stimulated and this resulted in salt-making at Rameswaram. The proposal to make salt at Ramanathapuram came immediately after Gandhiji's arrest. About the middle of May N. S. Ramaswami Iyer from Tiruchirappalli came to Ramanathapuram and organised the Satyagraha campaign. By May 26th preparations were completed

1. S. Satyapal and Prabodh Chandra-sixty years of Congress, 1946, Page 294.

2. Civil Disobedience Movement (Confidential), 1930-31, page 2.

and on 28th salt was made at Rameswaram by 5 volunteers. They were at once rounded up by the police. The next day also Satyagraha continued in Rameswaram Coast by five more volunteers. The leader of the movement N. S. Ramaswami Ayyer was arrested and on 30th May, nine more volunteers were taken into custody. The Movement was not revived probably due to the absence of an organiser.

The Government took stern measures to keep the situation under control. The police and the magistrate were busy arresting and convicting volunteers. They also did counter-propaganda, which was effective with the keepers of hotels and *Chatrams*. The police told them that it was not to the interest of their business with the pilgrims to make Rameswaram a trouble spot. Local support gradually declined.

But the movement was very active in the other centres of the District. Meetings of propaganda increased by June. Many volunteers were taken into custody. At Virudhunagar, where the Deputy Collector had superseded the local Municipality, many were arrested and section 144 was enforced often. In Rajapalayam there was constant picketing of toddy shops and three shops were actually burnt down. The Government had a hard time in meeting the situation. It tried to win over some of the local personalities. The Chairman of Rajapalayam was thus gained over. The Government also subsidised loyalty meetings where anti-propaganda against the Satyagraha was carried on. Thiru Kamaraj Nadar among others also courted arrest and was sentenced to two years imprisonment ; but was released after the Gandhi-Irwin pact. He took a leading part in 1931 in Tamilnad Congress Conference at Madurai in which Thiru C. Rajagopalachari and S. Sathyamurthy were elected President and Vice-President respectively. For the first time Thiru Kamaraj was elected as the member of the Tamilnad Congress Working Committee. After the failure of the Round Table Conference in 1931, there was a spurt of political activity and Thiru Kamaraj again found himself in the prison. He was kept in Vellore Jail to undergo one year imprisonment. Soon after his release he was accused of throwing a bomb on a police rest house.

All the efforts of the Government to control the situation came to naught. By the beginning of 1932 political activity increased in the District and they were often violent. In March 1932, a Police party which encountered a party of picketeers, was assaulted. On 29th March at another village, a police party escorting a few arrested picketeers was attacked by a mob and the picketeers were enabled to escape<sup>1</sup>. Virudhunagar became a trouble spot during these days. Picketing in front of cloth shops became a day today occurrence<sup>2</sup>. In July an explosion took place near a foreign cloth shop in the town, but none was injured. On the 30th of the same month, there was an attempt to blow up the post office at Rajapalayam.

1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 4th April 1932.

2. *Ibid*, dated 4th July 1932.

The post box and a portion of the building were destroyed. On 29th July the Prince of Wales's Reading Room at Manamadurai was subjected to bomb throwing. These attacks were usually made during nights and were directed against property rather than persons.<sup>1</sup> The Police concentrated their efforts to root out the nationalistic activities from Virudhunagar. But the volunteers began to distribute nationalistic literature secretly. They were able to secure a printing machine and to print and publish pamphlets full of lofty national sentiments. The police, on getting an inkling of this, made a surprise raid and took possession of the machines and arrested the volunteers<sup>2</sup>. The practice of writing nationalistic slogans on the walls was everywhere common in the Ramanathapuram district<sup>3</sup>, during the period.

Meanwhile in the presidency level significant changes came to pass. In 1932 the Raja of Bobbili set up his Justice Party Ministry. With a view to strengthen the Justice Party, its membership was offered to brahmins also. But this move did not substantially strengthen their Party. In the 1934 General Election, Justice Party was defeated by the Congress Party, which had by this time lifted its ban on council entry. However, since the Congress did not accept office, the Raja of Bobbili once again formed a Justice Party Ministry. Two more significant changes in the political atmosphere were the rise of the Communist ideology and Self-respect Movement. The latter was a non-brahmin movement and was backed up by the Justice Party. Periyar E. V. Ramaswami was the leader of the Party. This party started for the purpose of abolishing caste distinctions, gradually espoused the cause of communism and launched violent attacks on religion and property. During February and March 1934, this party was busy doing propaganda in the southern districts<sup>4</sup>. The Communist Party in Tamilnad was given a fillip by the visit of Saklatwala, a prominent Labour Leader of the day. However, the Government banned the Communist Party in 1934. The Meerut conspiracy case had revealed that the party aimed at nothing less than the violent overthrow of the existing social system. The banning of Communist Party affected the Self-respect party also which had been preaching communistic ideals. Periyar E. V. Ramaswami then declared that his party was a socialistic one and that violence had no place in it. It was at this period that Gandhiji launched his campaign against untouchability. All over Tamilnad, meetings were held and resolutions were passed advocating the removal of untouchability and temple entry. In the Ramanathapuram district also there were meetings to promote the cause of Harijan Welfare<sup>5</sup>.

Inside the district, nationalistic activities were kept alive. Volunteers went about singing patriotic songs and collecting funds in Sattur. They also did propaganda against untouchability. There

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1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 4th August 1932.

2. *Ibid*, dated 3rd September 1932.

3. *Ibid*.

4. *Ibid*, dated 19th March 1934.

5. *Ibid*, dated 19th June 1934.

were spasmodic violent outrages also. The Virudhunagar Post office was subjected to bomb throwing, but the damage was negligible, since the bombs were handmade and crude<sup>1</sup>. When the Indian Government arrested Abdul Khaffar Khan, popularly known as "Frontier Gandhi" there was a complete hartal in Ramanathapuram on 17th December 1934. In the same month Virudhunagar became the venue of a full committee meeting of Congress leaders from South India and this was followed by a big public meeting. This aroused a certain amount of opposition from the local adherents of the Self-respect league, which resulted in a stone-throwing incident<sup>2</sup>.

In 1935 came the Reform Act by which diarchy in the provincial level was abolished. In Madras the legislature consisted of an Assembly and a council both based on a much wider franchise. The Congress Party and the Justice Party were lying with each other to capture the seats. Enrolment of members for the Congress Party was vigorously going on throughout the Presidency<sup>3</sup>. The Justice Party held its conference at Virudhunagar in March 1935<sup>4</sup>. Meanwhile Thiru C. Rajagopalachari resigned from the Presidentship of Tamilnad Congress Committee on grounds of health and Sathya-murthy succeeded him. In this capacity Sathya-murthy toured Ramanathapuram district and re-charged the district with fresh national spirit<sup>5</sup>. Shortly afterwards Rajendra Prasad toured the southern districts.

During the post 1919 struggle for national freedom two personalities of the Ramanathapuram district came to the fore front as towering leaders by their devotion to the cause of the Indian National Congress and by their captivating command over the masses. They were P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja of Rajapalayam and Muthuramalinga Thever of Mudukulattur.

Inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja (1898—1957) joined the movement led by the Indian National Congress in 1919 and took a leading part in the Satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act. He strove hard to popularise the ideals of the Congress Party in his district and it has, very largely due to his leadership Rajapalayam and surrounding regions, became highly congress minded. In 1932 he participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was imprisoned for a year. In the 1934 General Elections, Kumaraswami Raja was elected to the Central Legislature from the constituency comprising Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts. In 1936 he was elected to the Madras Legislative Council when he resigned his membership of the Central

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1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential) dated, 3rd August 1934.

2. *Ibid*, dated 5th January 1935.

3. *Ibid*, dated 5th April 1935.

4. *Ibid*, dated 20th April 1935.

5. *Ibid*, dated 19th July 1935.

**Legislature.** By his honest and staunch advocacy of popular causes he became a marked man in the Assembly and won well-merited attention from session leaders of the Congress Organisation. In 1938, Kumaraswamy Raja organised the Fortieth Tamilnad Political Conference at Rajapalayam. In 1939, he resigned his membership of the Council when the Popular Ministry resigned as a protest against the War efforts of the Indian Government. In 1940, he participated in the individual Satyagraha and was sentenced to undergo imprisonment for 9 months. As a result of the Congress Party's decision to re-enter the legislature, the General Election was conducted in 1945. P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja was elected unopposed to the Assembly from the Srivilliputtur Constituency. The Congress Party succeeded in the elections and emerged as a major party. This formed the ministry under the leadership of T. Prakasam. P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja was included in the ministry as the Minister for Agriculture. In February 1947, P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja resigned as a result of some misunderstandings between him and the Chief Minister on policy matters. In April 1947, T. Prakasam was replaced by O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar as the Chief Minister. But in March 1949 when O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar tendered the resignation of his Cabinet, Kumaraswamy Raja was elected as the Chief Minister and he formed his ministry which lasted till April 1952. During his Chief Ministership, the most outstanding reform that was effected by the Madras Government was the introduction of the measure for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. In the General Election of 1952, he was defeated. After his defeat in the election he engaged heart and soul in establishing the Gandhi Kalai Manram at Rajapalayam, for which he donated his residence at the town. In January 1954, he had significant honour of being appointed as the Governor of Orissa which office he filled with distinction till September 1956.

Another leading political figure of the District was Muthuramalinga Thevar (1908-63). At the age of 26 he became a prominent politician by his stern opposition to Criminal Tribes Act passed by the English with a view to curb the Kallars and Thevars of Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts. After prolonged agitation, Muthuramalinga Thevar succeeded in having the Act repealed by the Government. This initial success made him immensely popular. At this stage he was attracted by the ideals of the Indian National Congress and joined the Party. Between 1935 and 1937 he toured the whole of Tamilnad preaching the mission of the Congress Party. In 1937 there were General Elections in the Tamilnad. The Raja of Ramnad who was a staunch supporter of the Justice Party was nominated by the Justice Party as a candidate to contest the election from the Ramanathapuram Constituency. In order to contest the election on behalf of the Congress against such a powerful person, Muthuramalinga Thevar was chosen and nominated as the Congress Candidate. Muthuramalinga Thevar defeated his rival by a very large margin of votes. Later Muthuramalinga Thevar was inclined



towards the leftist section of the Congress which during this period was led by Subash Chandra Bose. Muthuramalinga Thevar joined the camp of Bose.

In 1938 he was sentenced to one and a half year imprisonment for his activities during the mill workers strike at Madurai. Meanwhile Subash Chandra Bose formed the Forward Bloc within the Congress. In Tamilnad Muthuramalinga Thevar became the undisputed leader of the Forward Bloc. During the Second World War, the activities of the Forward Bloc were under heavy suspicion due to the activities of Nethaji Bose as the leader of the Indian National Army. When the Forward Bloc was banned by the Government in June 1942, Muthuramalinga Thevar was imprisoned for the entire period of the Second World War. He was released in September 1945 and he took part in the Tamilnad Congress Workers' Conference held at Tirupparankunram. In the 1946 Election, he was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the Mudukulattur constituency. In 1948 the Forward Bloc was organised as an independent party and opposed the Congress. In the subsequent Elections of 1952, 1957 and 1962 Muthuramalinga Thevar was elected to the Legislature by the people as their representative. Before his death in 1963 he was also implicated by the Mudukulattur riots. After a protracted period of litigation he was exonerated.

The Congress Party which took part in the Elections of 1937 had a sweeping victory. But the Congress Party refused to accept office without the assurance from the Government to the effect that it would not interfere in the day to day administration by the discretionary power which the constitution had invested the Governor with. So an interim ministry was formed under K. V. Reddy in April 1937. In the first half of July the Congress Party accepted office and formed a ministry under Thiru C. Rajagopalachariyar, on the strength of the assurance of the Viceroy, that the Governor will not interfere in the day to day administration. This was hailed as "Gentleman's Agreement". In the same year Gandhiji toured the southern districts and the popularity of the Congress was at its height. Thiru N. G. Ranga also visited the southern districts and worked for the improvement of the lot of the ryots<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, by various means the nationalistic spirit was kept alive in the District. The Second World War marked a turning point in the history of freedom struggle. At the declaration of War against Germany by the British in September 1939, the Viceroy declared India as belligerent. This raised a storm of indignation

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1. Fortnightly Reports (Confidential), dated 5th May 1937.

through out the country. As a mark of protest, Thiru C. Rajagopalachari's ministry resigned in October 1939. Satyagraha Committees were formed in all the districts to do vigorous anti-war propaganda. Gandhiji and others launched on an individual Satyagraha. Prominent leaders were arrested in 1940. Among them were Thiru C. Rajagopalachari, Satyamurthy and Thiru Kamaraj Nadar. Local leaders from Ramanathapuram were also arrested<sup>1</sup>.

In Rajapalayam the National Youth League carried on the political activities. In August 1942 it led a procession of thousand volunteers to mark their protest against the arrest of the leaders. Violence marked the proceedings. In the same month salt Picketing was carried on at Sayalkudi in the Bombodi swamp. Attempts were made to sabotage railway lines in Sivaganga and Nattarasankottai. In August 1942 Karaikkudi became a scene of serious disaffection. The violent activities of a crowd in disregard of the order issued under 144 Cr.P.C. resulted in police firing in which three persons were injured. Arson became a common occurrence. Government Officers were looted at Poolankurichi. In Devakottai there was an organised picketing of courts and offices. Two buses were set on fire. Very often the mob was armed with *arruvals*, *vels* and bill-hooks. At Tiruvadanai, a crowd of 1,000 gathered and robbed the police station of its guns and ammunition. The Sub-treasury was also broken open and the Treasury was emptied. Mail buses were waylaid and mails were destroyed. At various places like Natarajapuram, Poolankurichi, Vadavampatti, Pallattur, Rajapalayam and Aruppukkottai there were riots, telegraphic wire cutting and other such acts of sabotage.

The latter half of 1942 was a troubled period for the Ramanathapuram District. It was one of the worst affected districts with regard to acts of violence. Even in normal times the situation of law and order was not satisfactory. The nationalistic cause gave an impetus to this tendency. The Public were very unfriendly to the police. The police found it difficult to restore order in Ramanathapuram because of the proclivity of the mob for violent actions.

There were sporadic destructive activities which resulted in the breaking up of lines of communications in the District. During this period police resorted to firing in 5 places-Rajapalayam, Karaikkudi, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai and Poolankurichi. During this period the total number of persons detained by the end of 1942 was seven and the total number of persons convicted by the end of 1942 was 88. Rs. 2,93,428 was collected in the form of fine.

On 7th September 1942 the Ramanathapuram District Board passed a resolution placing on record its emphatic protest against the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders. The Virudhunagar Municipal Council passed a similar resolution on the 30th September 1942 supporting the resolution of the All-India Congress

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1. Satyapal and Probodh Chandra—op. cit., page 335 and 342.

Committee. The Government took a serious view of this and as a result, both the Board and the Council were superseded for six months<sup>1</sup>.

On the All-India sphere there was an intense political activity during 1942. A parliamentary delegation under Sir Stafford Cripps brought with it the offer of more responsible Government for India. According to the offer a federation of India with units was to be formed three tiers. The offer of freedom sent through Sir Stafford Cripps from the British ruling conservative Party of Britain did not satisfy the leaders of both the Congress and the Muslim League. Meanwhile the British Government withdrew the offer, as the urgency to arrive at a settlement with the Indians had vanished as a result of the changes in the international situation. The threat of Burma's invasion of India has by that time passed away.

The failure of the Cripps Mission gave the signal for the people to agitate for the over throw of the foreign rule and it was further kindled by the Quit India Resolution of the Indian National Congress. Britain was all the time engaged in increasing her war efforts. The resources of the country were all mobilised for winning the war, but no attempt was made to win over the popular will by the grant of freedom during the period. When the Labour Party came to power in 1945, under the inspiring leadership of Clement Atlee, a Cabinet Mission was sent to India in 1946. It conducted a series of negotiations with the leaders of the political parties at the conclusion of which there was a decision to form an Interim Government with representatives of major parties, the Congress and the Muslim League. But the Interim Government had a very uneasy time due to internal disharmony and dissensions. Eventually, the division of the country into India and Pakistan was agreed upon and constituent assemblies have been established for the drafting of the constitution. Lord Mountbatten, the then Governor-General of India, has set about with great earnestness to the task of transferring power to Indian hands. On 15th August 1947, India became independent and the withdrawal of the British was smooth and orderly.

When the legislation for freedom of the country was on the anvil in the Parliament of England, the Congress accepted office in the provinces. In the Elections of 1946, 1951, 1957 and 1962 the Congress was returned as the major party in the Madras Legislative Assembly. Between 1946 and 1951 a number of ministries were formed. Prakasam (1946), O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar (1947), Kumaraswamy Raja (1949) and Thiru C. Rajagopalachari (1952), headed the ministries respectively. In this ministry the Raja of Ramnad, Rajeswara Sethupathi was a minister. After the resignation of Thiru C. Rajagopalachari (1954), Thiru K. Kamaraj formed the Congress Ministry in the same year. He headed the

1. District Calendar of events of Civil Disobedience Movement (Secret) pages 93-97.

ministries after the General Elections of 1957 and 1962. When Thiru Kamaraj resigned in September 1963 for taking up party work, Thiru Baktavathsalam formed the ministry in October 1963. Bhaktavathsalam Ministry was in office till the General Elections of 1967.

A new political party in the state, namely the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam or D.M.K. in short was formed in September 1949 by the dissidents from Periyar's Dravida Kazhagam. Its leader C. N. Annadurai who is affectionally called as 'Anna' an orator of unparalleled excellence, a scholar and writer of rare worth, he is also known to the country as 'Arignar' or Learned Person. The D.M.K. since its inception in 1949, continued its agitation only on the social side and apart from expressing its views and popularising them on some political questions, did not contest the general elections in 1952. In its momentous conference in Tiruchirappalli in 1956, the D.M.K. decided to contest the elections in 1957. The party secured 15 seats in 1957 elections. In the General elections of 1962, the D.M.K. party secured 50 seats and became the main opposition party in the Assembly.

At the General Elections of 1967 the Congress Party which was continuously in power in the State since independence was defeated and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam returned with a majority of 138 seats in the State Assembly. Dr. C. N. Annadurai formed the Ministry which included Thiru S. Madhavan who represented Tiruppattur in Ramanathapuram District. Due to the demise of Arignar Anna, the mantle of the Government fell on Kalaighnar Dr. Karunanidhi in 1969.

Because the Centre has decided to have the General Elections for the Lok Sabha a year earlier i.e., after completing four years, the State Government also decided to go to the polls for the State Assembly along with Lok Sabha Elections. This took place in the year 1971 when the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was returned to power with an unprecedented majority of 184 seats in the Assembly. Thiru S. Madhavan who contested the election to the Assembly from Tiruppattur in Ramanathapuram District was returned to the Assembly and he is included in the Tamil Nadu Cabinet headed by Kalaighnar Dr. Karunanidhi.

During the post independence period, the State has made significant progress by the abolition of Zamindari system, by fixation of fair rent for the tenants and fair wages for agricultural labourers, by introduction of land ceiling and by promotion of industries, irrigation, and hydro-electric power production. The lines of progress in the Ramanathapuram District were on the same line as the rest of the State.

## CHAPTER III—PEOPLE.

*Total Popultaion According to sub-divisions.*—The total population of the Ramanathapuram District as enumerated at the Census of 1971 is 2,857,424. The District extends over an area of 12,559 square kilometres (4,849.20 sq. miles). The following table gives the figures of the total population in each of the nine taluks of the District :—

TALUK-WISE POPULATION (1961).

| <i>Taluks.</i><br>(1)  | <i>Males.</i><br>(2) | <i>Females.</i><br>(3) | <i>Total.</i><br>(4) |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Tiruppattur .. .. .    | 150,800              | 162,295                | 313,095              |
| Sivaganga .. .. .      | 129,472              | 137,066                | 266,538              |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. .    | 104,676              | 113,197                | 217,873              |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. . | 172,718              | 176,412                | 349,130              |
| Sattur .. .. .         | 175,990              | 177,862                | 353,852              |
| Aruppukkottai .. .. .  | 131,743              | 137,563                | 269,306              |
| Paramagudi .. .. .     | 107,464              | 118,179                | 225,643              |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .   | 112,237              | 121,886                | 234,123              |
| Ramanathapuram .. .. . | 90,669               | 101,559                | 192,228              |

As per the Census of 1961, the population per square mile in the District was 194. According to 1971 Census the population per square kilometre in the District is 227.

### DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX.

The following table shows the distribution of population of the District on the basis of sex during the period of six years :—

| <i>Census Year.</i> | <i>Total Population.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| (1)                 | (2)                      | (3)           | (4)             |
| 1911 .. .. .        | 1,673,910                | 793,681       | 880,229         |
| 1921 .. .. .        | 1,728,532                | 821,964       | 906,568         |
| 1931 .. .. .        | 1,849,770                | 877,491       | 972,279         |
| 1941 .. .. .        | 1,990,681                | 953,978       | 1,036,703       |
| 1951 .. .. .        | 2,080,519                | 995,525       | 1,084,994       |
| 1961 .. .. .        | 2,421,788                | 1,175,769     | 1,246,019       |
| 1971 .. .. .        | 2,857,424                | 1,398,196     | 1,459,228       |

It is seen from the table that the excess of female population over men has been a permanent feature of the District. This fact can be further confirmed by the variation of the respective population since 1901.

As per the Census of 1961, the sex ratio of the District is 1,060 females for every 1,000 males. The District has the highest sex ratio in the State. The reason for this is not far to seek. It is because there was a considerable emigration of males, leaving their females behind. According to the Census of 1971, the sex ratio of the District is 1,044 females for every 1,000 males.

### GROWTH OF POPULATION AND CONNECTED PROBLEMS.

The following table shows the growth of population of the District :—

TABLE II.

*Growth of Population, 1911—1961 (District Total).*

| <i>Census Year.</i> |       | <i>Persons.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> | <i>Percentage increase of population.</i> |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| (1)                 |       | (2)             | (3)               | (4)                                       |
| 1911                | .. .. | 1,673,910       | 140,839           | 0.1                                       |
| 1921                | .. .. | 1,728,532       | 54,622            | 3.3                                       |
| 1931                | .. .. | 1,849,770       | 121,238           | 7.0                                       |
| 1941                | .. .. | 1,990,681       | 140,911           | 7.6                                       |
| 1951                | .. .. | 2,080,519       | 89,838            | 4.5                                       |
| 1961                | .. .. | 2,421,788       | 341,269           | 16.3                                      |
| 1971                | .. .. | 2,857,424       | 435,636           | 18.0                                      |

| <i>Males.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1)—cont. (5) | (6)               | (7)             | (8)               |
| 793,681       | 69,488            | 880,229         | 71,351            |
| 821,964       | 28,283            | 906,568         | 263,391           |
| 877,491       | 55,527            | 972,279         | 65,711            |
| 953,978       | 76,487            | 1,036,703       | 64,424            |
| 995,525       | 41,547            | 1,084,994       | 48,291            |
| 1,175,769     | 180,244           | 1,246,019       | 161,025           |
| 1,398,196     | 222,427           | 1,459,928       | 213,207           |

The population has registered a low increase of 4.5 per cent in the decade 1941–51. The increase in the previous decade was 7.6 per cent. This low increase of 4.5 per cent in the period of 1941–51 as compared with 7.6 per cent in 1931–41, should be attributed to the large scale emigration of labour classes to the adjoining districts of Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur as well as migration to Ceylon during the period of distress in the later part of 1940<sup>1</sup>. As enumerated at the Census of 1951, 81,113 persons have migrated to the Madurai District. Sattur and Srivilliputtur are the best taluks in the District from the point of view of agriculture and they are also important from the point of view of industry and trade. The increase of 12.9 per cent in Sattur and 16.1 per cent in Srivilliputtur

are therefore fully explicable. At Sattur, Sivakasi and Virudhunagar, there are many match factories and they are also important trade centres. In the Srivilliputtur Taluk Rajapalayam has grown into an industrial and trade centre, and there are also a few textile mills. It is also a large handloom weaving centre. It has attracted a large number of immigrants from the adjoining dry areas in the Tirunelveli District. In the rest of the District, the rainfall is always poor and precarious and those areas have been hit hard by the failure of the north-east monsoon since 1947-48, with the result that there was a large scale emigration of the labouring classes to the adjoining districts of Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur. There has also been considerable migration from these taluks to Ceylon. These factors explain the low increases in these taluks. Mudukulattur has shown a large decrease to the extent of 20.4 percent. The factors which have contributed to this are the adverse seasonal conditions referred to above and the prevalence of small-pox and cholera in an epidemic form in October 1950. These factors led to emigration on a large scale to the adjoining districts. This is also a backward and unattractive Taluk with poor communications.

According to the Census of 1961 the population of the District has increased by 16.3 per cent. This is to be attributed to the changed condition of the District during 1951-61. During this period monsoons were regular and the development schemes of the past ten years were fruitful in the District and people did not migrate in a large scale to other places. As per the Census of 1971 the population has increased by 18 per cent.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the population in the several taluks of the District during 1911-51.

**GROWTH OF POPULATION (TALUK-WISE).**

| <i>Taluka.</i>     | <i>Census year.</i> | <i>Persons.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> | <i>Percentage variation.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Variation.</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1)                | (2)                 | (3)             | (4)               | (5)                          | (6)           | (7)               | (8)             | (9)               |
| <b>Tirupattur</b>  | ..                  | ..              | ..                | ..                           | ..            | ..                | ..              | ..                |
|                    | 1911                | 228,047         | 19,011            | 9.0                          | 105,344       | 9,498             | 122,703         | 9,513             |
|                    | 1921                | 235,030         | 6,983             | 3.1                          | 109,123       | 3,779             | 120,907         | 3,204             |
|                    | 1931                | 253,675         | 18,643            | 6.3                          | 118,744       | 9,621             | 134,931         | 9,024             |
|                    | 1941                | 281,988         | 28,313            | 11.2                         | 133,505       | 14,761            | 148,483         | 13,552            |
| <b>Sivaganga</b>   | 1951                | 296,863         | 14,875            | 5.3                          | 140,404       | 6,899             | 156,459         | 7,976             |
|                    | 1911                | 195,077         | 9,907             | 6.3                          | 90,834        | 5,922             | 104,243         | 3,985             |
|                    | 1921                | 202,996         | 7,919             | 2.9                          | 95,166        | 4,322             | 107,830         | 3,537             |
|                    | 1931                | 213,441         | 10,445            | 8.4                          | 99,933        | 4,767             | 113,508         | 5,678             |
|                    | 1941                | 225,436         | 11,995            | 5.6                          | 106,710       | 6,777             | 118,726         | 5,218             |
| <b>Tiruvadanai</b> | 1951                | 232,952         | 7,516             | 3.3                          | 111,557       | 4,847             | 121,395         | 2,669             |
|                    | 1911                | 154,139         | 3,046             | 2.1                          | 70,338        | 1,467             | 83,801          | 1,578             |
|                    | 1921                | 163,180         | 9,041             | 3.1                          | 75,027        | 4,689             | 88,153          | 4,352             |
|                    | 1931                | 165,194         | 2,014             | 2.6                          | 76,254        | 1,227             | 88,940          | 787               |
|                    | 1941                | 180,299         | 15,105            | 9.1                          | 84,766        | 8,512             | 95,533          | 8,593             |
|                    | 1951                | 185,624         | 5,325             | 3.0                          | 84,277        | 2,508             | 98,350          | 2,817             |



|                |      |         |        |      |         |        |         |        |
|----------------|------|---------|--------|------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Srivilliputtur | 1911 | 209,964 | 23,383 | 19-6 | 103,776 | 11,540 | 106,188 | 11,843 |
|                | 1921 | 229,442 | 19,478 | 9-5  | 114,338 | 10,562 | 115,104 | 8,916  |
|                | 1931 | 242,570 | 13,128 | 5-7  | 120,373 | 6,025  | 122,197 | 7,093  |
|                | 1941 | 261,449 | 18,879 | 8-2  | 129,539 | 9,166  | 131,910 | 9,713  |
|                | 1951 | 303,662 | 42,213 | 16-1 | 149,844 | 20,305 | 153,818 | 21,908 |
| Sattur         | 1911 | 251,338 | 34,007 | 12-4 | 124,046 | 16,752 | 127,292 | 17,255 |
|                | 1921 | 249,751 | 1,587  | 2-6  | 123,492 | -554   | 126,259 | 1,033  |
|                | 1931 | 264,947 | 15,196 | 8-2  | 129,908 | 6,416  | 135,039 | 8,780  |
|                | 1941 | 278,877 | 13,930 | 3-0  | 137,890 | 6,982  | 141,987 | 6,948  |
|                | 1951 | 314,944 | 36,067 | 12-0 | 155,280 | 18,390 | 159,864 | 17,677 |
| Aruppukkottai  | 1911 | 195,561 | 12,820 | 12-3 | 94,772  | 6,699  | 100,789 | 7,121  |
|                | 1921 | 213,318 | 17,757 | 6-0  | 104,089 | 9,317  | 109,229 | 8,440  |
|                | 1931 | 232,821 | 19,503 | 5-0  | 112,977 | 8,888  | 119,844 | 10,615 |
|                | 1941 | 229,284 | -3,537 | 0-7  | 111,436 | -1,541 | 117,948 | -1,996 |
|                | 1951 | 242,777 | 13,493 | 5-9  | 118,234 | 6,798  | 124,543 | 6,695  |
| Paramagudi     | 1911 | 154,422 | 11,757 | 6-5  | 71,388  | 5,302  | 83,034  | 6,455  |
|                | 1921 | 150,520 | -3,902 | -0-8 | 68,977  | -2,411 | 81,543  | -1,491 |
|                | 1931 | 164,798 | 14,278 | 8-7  | 74,969  | 5,992  | 89,329  | 8,286  |

## GROWTH OF POPULATION (TALUK-WISE).

| Taluka.                  | Census<br>year. | Persons.<br>(3) | Variation.<br>(4) | Percentage<br>variation.<br>(5) | Male.<br>(6) | Variation.<br>(7) | Females.<br>(8) | Variation.<br>(9) |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1)                      | (2)             |                 |                   |                                 |              |                   |                 |                   |
|                          | 1941            | 178,680         | 13,882            | 8.4                             | 82,938       | 7,969             | 95,742          | 5,913             |
|                          | 1951            | 181,593         | 2,913             | 1.6                             | 84,959       | 2,021             | 96,634          | 892               |
| <b>Mudukulatur ..</b>    | 1911            | 159,543         | 12,941            | 9.0                             | 74,922       | 5,824             | 84,621          | 7,117             |
|                          | 1921            | 161,740         | 2,197             | 2.6                             | 75,421       | -499              | 86,319          | 1,698             |
|                          | 1931            | 175,492         | 13,752            | 8.5                             | 8,142        | 5,721             | 94,350          | 8,031             |
|                          | 1941            | 198,549         | 23,057            | 13.2                            | 94,372       | 13,230            | 104,177         | 9,827             |
|                          | 1951            | 158,125         | 40,424            | 20.4                            | 73,418       | 20,954            | 84,707          | -19,470           |
| <b>Ramanathapuram ..</b> | 1911            | 125,819         | 12,968            | 11.9                            | 58,261       | 6,484             | 67,558          | 6,484             |
|                          | 1921            | 122,555         | -3,264            | -3.0                            | 56,331       | -930              | 66,224          | -1,334            |
|                          | 1931            | 136,832         | 14,277            | 11.6                            | 63,191       | 6,860             | 73,641          | 7,417             |
|                          | 1941            | 156,119         | 19,287            | 14.0                            | 73,822       | 10,631            | 82,297          | 8,656             |
|                          | 1951            | 163,979         | 7,860             | 5.0                             | 74,555       | 733               | 89,424          | 7,127             |

## DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

Ramanathapuram is predominantly an agricultural District. As per the Census of 1961, the rural population per 1,000 of general population was 752. According to the Census of 1971 the rural population per 1,000 of general population is 739. The total rural population of the District is 2,111,833.

### RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION<sup>1</sup>.

| Taluk.                 | (1)     | Rural.  |         |          | Density of population per square mile. |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--|
|                        |         | Total.  | Males.  | Females. |  |
|                        |         | (2)     | (3)     | (4)      |  |
| Tiruppattur .. .. .    | .. .. . | 213,152 | 99,454  | 113,698  |  |
| Sivaganga .. .. .      | .. .. . | 194,074 | 92,393  | 101,681  |  |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. .    | .. .. . | 147,629 | 69,227  | 78,402   |  |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. . | .. .. . | 182,225 | 89,996  | 92,229   |  |
| Sattur .. .. .         | .. .. . | 232,396 | 114,077 | 118,319  |  |
| Aruppukkottai .. .. .  | .. .. . | 179,288 | 87,154  | 92,134   |  |
| Paramagudi .. .. .     | .. .. . | 136,777 | 64,254  | 72,523   |  |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .   | .. .. . | 138,076 | 64,776  | 73,300   |  |
| Ramanathapuram .. .. . | .. .. . | 118,319 | 53,776  | 64,543   |  |

| Urban.                 |         |          |        |     | Density of population per square mile. |
|------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-----|--|
| Total.                 | Males.  | Females. |        |     |  |
| (5)                    | (6)     | (7)      |        |     | (8)                                    |
| Tiruppattur .. .. .    | 83,711  | 40,950   | 42,761 | 524 |  |
| Sivaganga .. .. .      | 38,878  | 19,164   | 19,714 | 355 |  |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. .    | 37,995  | 18,047   | 19,948 | 339 |  |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. . | 121,407 | 59,848   | 61,559 | 695 |  |
| Sattur .. .. .         | 82,548  | 41,203   | 41,345 | 543 |  |
| Aruppukkottai .. .. .  | 63,484  | 31,080   | 32,409 | 395 |  |
| Paramagudi .. .. .     | 414,816 | 20,705   | 24,111 | 413 |  |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .   | 20,049  | 8,642    | 11,407 | 244 |  |
| Ramanathapuram .. .. . | 46,660  | 20,779   | 24,881 | 491 |  |

A study of the above table shows that the largest number of rural population is in the Sattur Taluk. The density of rural population in the District is 328 per square mile. The rural population has recorded a low increase of 0.1 per cent during the decade 1941-51. This is due to the "failure of north-east monsoon during the latter part of the decade and the consequent large scale emigration. Ceylon being next door to this District the District contributed largely to emigration to that country<sup>2</sup>".

As per the Census of 1961 the urban population in the District was only 24.8 per cent of the total population. According to the Census of 1971 the percentage of urban population to the total population is 26.09.

Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Aruppukkottai, Karaikkudi, Devakottai, Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi are the municipalities in the District.

1. Source : 1961 Census Handbook, Ramanathapuram District, page 17.

2. Ibid.

There are 34 towns in the District including the above nine municipalities of which 3 towns have a population above 50,000 ; 6 towns have population between 20,000 to 50,000 ; 10 towns have population between 10,000 to 20,000, ten towns have population between 5,000 to 10,000 and 5 towns have population below 5,000.

From 1961 every municipality, cantonment and every other continuous collection of houses permanently inhabited by not less than 5,000 persons was treated as a census town. In 1951, any local area with the presence of urban features, the availability of urban amenities such as bazaar where one could buy one's normal requirements throughout the year, the facilities for education, recreation and medical treatment, was declared a census town. But in 1961, a more precise definition of urban area was attempted. In addition to all municipalities, cantonments and townships, other areas with a population of not less than 5,000 with 75 per cent of the male population depending on non-agricultural resources for their livelihood and with a density of 1,000 persons per square mile were declared as towns. In respect of the areas to which only two of the three conditions mentioned above applied, and in the opinion of the Collector of the District if they had urban characteristics, they were also declared as towns.

The total urban population of the District according to the 1961 Census was 599,481. As per the Census of 1971 the total urban population of the District is 745,591. Among the towns, Rajapalayam is treated as a city from the Census of 1951. It has a population of 71,203.

The urban population has shown an increase of 19.7 per cent during the decade 1941-51. The increase in the previous decade was 14.4 per cent and during 1921-31, the percentage variation was 16.8 per cent. The Sattur Taluk has a number of match factories situated at Sattur and Sivakasi. There are also a number of ginning factories in this Taluk. The urban amenities have attracted the movement of population to this Taluk from the adjacent rural areas. The urban population of this Taluk has increased to 35.3 per cent during the decade 1941-51 from 6.9 per cent in 1941. The city population of Rajapalayam has increased by 31.5 per cent. Since Rajapalayam is a flourishing industrial city the drift towards this city from the adjoining rural area is large. According to the Census of 1971 the population of Rajapalayam is 86,946. Aruppukkottai another flourishing town in the District where there are many large scale industries has also attracted the movement of population from the villages. Moreover this town is a centre for handloom industries.

#### LANGUAGE.

Language is a fascinating study in a polyglot region as the Ramanathapuram District.

There are four linguistic groups in the Ramanathapuram District. The bulk of the people speak Tamil. The Devangas of Aruppukkottai and elsewhere speak Telugu and Kanarese. The Rajus of

Rajapalayam, the Vattuvarajus, and the Baliyas, the Gavaras and the Kammas and other minor sects which are generally called Nayudus or Nayakkars speak Telugu. The Kusavars, the Vaniyars and the Komutis are also Telugu speaking people though their accent is slightly different from that of other Telugu speakers.

The Paliyars speak Tamil, but with a peculiar intonation. The Marakkayars speak a language called *Arab-Tamil*. They write Tamil in Arabic characters. The Labbais speak Tamil at home and outside the home. The Paravars of the coast speak Tamil with a peculiar Portuguese intonation. A large number of the Chakkiliyars speak Telugu and Kanarese.

Due to regional influences, persons in the District whose mother-tongue is Telugu, also acquire a knowledge of Tamil as a subsidiary language. They are well versed in Tamil which is freely used in their communication with others. Sometimes their scholarship is better revealed in Tamil than in Telugu.

In each linguistic group there are dialectic variations in different parts of the District. The Telugu spoken by the Rajus and the Naidus is an improvement over that spoken by the Komutis. So also there are certain dialectic variations in Tamil spoken by the people in Western Ramanathapuram and Eastern Ramanathapuram.

It is also to be noted that all those whose mother-tongue is Telugu with the exception of the Chakkiliyars, have got their exogamous septs called *Gotras*. Those whose mother-tongue is Tamil call their exogamous septs as *Kilais*. There are also a large number of people in all communities who are conversant in English.

As enumerated at the Census of 1961, the distribution of persons in the Ramanathapuram District according to mother-tongue is as follows :—

| Mother-Tongue.     | Sex.      |           |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                    | Males.    | Females   |
| (1)                | (2)       | (3)       |
| Tamil .. .. .      | 1,050,681 | 1,116,637 |
| Telugu .. .. .     | 98,487    | 102,142   |
| Kannada .. .. .    | 15,414    | 16,594    |
| Sourashtra .. .. . | 6,252     | 6,621     |
| Malayalam .. .. .  | 2,250     | 1,394     |
| Hindustani .. .. . | 1         | 16        |
| Hindi .. .. .      | 270       | 203       |
| Marathi .. .. .    | 173       | 162       |
| English .. .. .    | 33        | 37        |

The table shows that Tamil is the principal language of the District which is the mother-tongue of about 91 per cent of the people. The Telugu language remains throughout the District as an appreciable though never a majority element. Its course is capricious but two points can be observed: (1) a tendency to follow the higher ground and (2) a preference for the black soils similar to those of the ceded districts.

The deltaic or coastal belts are particularly free of Telugu. The stretch of red soil that runs up along the eastern foot of the Ghats in Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram has a much smaller Telugu element than in the black cotton soil which thrusts down the centre of the region through Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Sankarankoil and Koilpatti. Similarly the Tirumangalam Taluk in Madurai which is largely of black cotton soil has a stronger Telugu element than Melur to the east which resembles Eastern Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai in its particular yellow soil<sup>1</sup>. Kannada is the mother-tongue of 32,008 persons. Sourashtra, Hindustani and Marathi and Malayalam are spoken by small sections of the population.

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION ON THE BASIS  
OF OTHER-TONGUE AND BI-LINGUALISM.**

The following table compiled from 1961 Census shows the extent to which bi-lingualism prevails in the District :

| <i>Mother tongue.</i>                    |                        | <i>Total persons re-<br/>turned as speaking<br/>a language sub-<br/>sidiary to that<br/>shown in col. (1).</i> | <i>Subsidiary language</i>                        |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Language from<br/>which returned.</i> | <i>Total speakers.</i> |  |   |
| (1)                                      | (2)                    | (3)  | (4)   |
| Tamil .. ..                              | 2,167,318              | 95,213   | Telugu (19,986)<br>Hindi (936)<br>Malayalam (483) |
| Telugu .. ..                             | 200,629                | 160,118  | Tamil (158,862)<br>Hindi (8)<br>Malayalam (4)     |
| Kannada .. ..                            | 32,008                 | 26,634   | Tamil (26,367)<br>Telugu (85)<br>Hindi (3)        |
| Sourashtra .. ..                         | 12,873                 | 10,438   | Tamil (10,412)<br>Telugu (4)                      |
| Malayalam .. ..                          | 3,644                  | 2,675  | Tamil (2,237)<br>Telugu (7)<br>Hindi (27)         |

<sup>1</sup> Source : Census of India, 1931, page 239.

It is interesting to note from the above table that a large number of those whose mother-tongue is Telugu, speak Tamil as a subsidiary language, while only a very small number (19,986) of those whose mother-tongue is Tamil, speak Telugu as a subsidiary language. For a majority of those whose mother-tongue is Kannada, Tamil is the subsidiary language. It is also clear from the above figures that the Malayalis, Sourashtras, Kanarese, and Telugus being comparatively small in numbers in the District acquire the habit of speaking Tamil in large proportions.

**DIFFERENCE IN DIALECT WITHIN THE SAME  
LINGUISTIC GROUP.**

| “பரவாயில்லை”                      | is spoken as | “குற்றமில்லை”            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| “வெய்யல்”                         | ”            | தடை                      |
| “திறவுகோல்”                       | ”            | திறகுச்சி.               |
| “இரகப் பிரவேசம்”                  | ”            | குடி புகுதல்.            |
| தாயார்                            | ”            | ஆத்தாள்.                 |
| தந்தை                             | ”            | அப்பச்சி.                |
| நுக்கால்                          | ”            | நோக்கர்ல்.               |
| பாட்டி                            | ”            | ஆயாள்.                   |
| (தாயின் தாய்)                     |              |                          |
| பாட்டி                            | ”            | அப்பத்தாள்.              |
| (தந்தையின் தாய்)                  |              |                          |
| சித்தப்பா                         | ”            | அண்ணன்.                  |
| (சிறிய தந்தையார்)                 |              |                          |
| அண்ணி                             | ”            | அண்ணன் பெண்டி.           |
| (அண்ணன் மனைவி)                    |              |                          |
| அக்கா                             | ”            | ஆச்சி.                   |
| சித்தி                            | ”            | ஆச்சி.                   |
| (சிறிய தாயார்)                    |              |                          |
| குறும்ப தலைவி                     | ”            | ஆச்சி.                   |
| மாமா                              | ”            | அம்மான்.                 |
| (தாய் மாமன்)                      |              |                          |
| உன் அப்பச்சி                      | ”            | நொப்பச்சி.               |
| உன் அக்காள்                       | ”            | நொக்காள்.                |
| தாத்தா                            | ”            | அய்யா.                   |
| நலந்தானே                          | ”            | ஏன்?                     |
| (சந்திக்கும் போது சொல்லும் சொல்.) |              |                          |
| நல்லம்                            | ”            | ஆமா.                     |
| ஒய் (விளிப் பொருள்)               | ”            | எனங்கறேன்.               |
| சுட்டத்தைக் கலைக்கலாம்            | ”            | சுட்டத்தை பெறுக்கலாம்.   |
| விளக்கை அலை                       | ”            | விளக்கை மலையேற்று.       |
| ஒன்றும் தேதி                      | ”            | முதல் தேதி.              |
| சரியாக 300                        | ”            | வடிவாக 300.              |
| பந்தல்                            | ”            | “கொட்டகை” அல்லது காவனம். |

The following words are used to singify the sense given against them :—

|                    |     |                     |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------|
| இங்கிட்டு          | for | இங்கே, இந்த பக்கம். |
| அங்கிட்டு          | ”   | அங்கே, அந்த பக்கம்  |
| அங்கனே             | ”   | அங்கே               |
| இங்கனோ             | ”   | இங்கே               |
| இருப்பிலேயே        | ”   | இருந்த இடத்திலேயே   |
| குந்த வைக்குகிட்டு | ”   | உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு  |
| பைய                | ”   | நிதானமாக, மெல்ல     |
| துட்டு             | ”   | பைசா                |
| திராவை             | ”   | சீழ்த்தரமான         |
| தள்ளித் தம்        | ”   | சரியான அல்லது கஞர்  |

|                 |     |                        |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------|
| அட்சல்          | for | குப்பை, கூனம்          |
| ஆகச்சே          | "   | ஆகவே                   |
| ஆவலாதி          | "   | அவ்வாறு                |
| ஆகுப்பிலே       | "   | ஆனால் போலே             |
| எடுத்துக்கொண்டு | "   | எடுத்துக்கொண்டு        |
| கச்சடா          | "   | கீழ்த்தரமான            |
| கண்மாய்         | "   | எரி                    |
| கண்டாங்கி       | "   | சேலை                   |
| கரச்சல்         | "   | தொந்திரவு              |
| கருக்கல்        | "   | விடியற்காலே            |
| குறளி           | "   | பொய்                   |
| கூர் கெட்டவன்   | "   | அறிவில்லாதவன்          |
| கேணி            | "   | கிணறு                  |
| சவுடால்         | "   | டாம்பீகம்              |
| சுருக்க         | "   | சீக்கிரமாக             |
| சுணக்கம்        | "   | தாமதம்                 |
| சூட்டா          | "   | வேகமாக                 |
| சோமாறிவிட்டான்  | "   | சுரோகம் செய்துவிட்டான் |
| தபா             | "   | தடவை                   |
| தான்            | "   | காய்கறித்துண்டு        |
| தேவலை           | "   | தாழ்விலை, பரவாயில்லை   |
| நடப்பு          | "   | இன்றைய நிலை            |
| பச்சு           | "   | உடனே                   |
| பதவிச           | "   | கவனமாக                 |
| பதில் வெட்டு    | "   | போலி                   |
| மல்லுக்கட்டு    | "   | கட்டாயப்படுத்தல்       |
| மெனக்கட்டு      | "   | கண்ணுங்கருத்துமாக      |
| ராப்தா          | "   | பழக்கம்                |
| லேசு பாசு       | "   | சாதாரணமாக              |

### RELIGION AND CASTE.

Hinduism, Islam and Christianity are the three major religions of the District. The Census of 1961 shows the distribution of population among the religions in the District as follows :—

|            |    |    |    | Males.    | Females.  | Total.    |
|------------|----|----|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Hindus     | .. | .. | .. | 1,044,088 | 1,089,722 | 2,133,810 |
| Muslims    | .. | .. | .. | 67,415    | 89,364    | 156,779   |
| Christians | .. | .. | .. | 63,894    | 66,670    | 130,564   |
| Jains      | .. | .. | .. | 31        | 25        | 56        |
| Sikhs      | .. | .. | .. | 19        | 8         | 27        |
| Buddhists  | .. | .. | .. | 6         | 3         | 9         |

The above figures show that Hinduism is the principal religion of the District with a strength of 21·33 lakhs out of the total population of 24·21 lakhs. The second principal religion of the District is Islam with 1·56 lakhs of followers. The followers of Christianity come in next with 1·30 lakhs. The other religions are followed by small fractions of the population.

The Hindus constitute the major population in every taluk. Though the Muslims are found in every taluk, their number is appreciable in the taluks of Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi and Tiruvadanai. The Christians are found in large numbers in Tiruvadanai, Mudukulattur, Srivilliputtur and Paramagudi taluks.

Caste-wise population statistics are not available for 1961. However, the Census Report of 1931 gives the distribution of population on the basis of caste. Kallars, Maravas, Chakkiliars, Yadavars, Pallars and Labbais are the numerically important castes of the District.



## HINDUS.

The general structure, beliefs and customs of the Hindus of the District do not materially differ from that of the Hindus of other districts in the State.

Saivism has a long history in the Marava country. During the period of the Pallavas, Saivism began to have deep roots in the Marava soil as evidenced by a number of Saivite temples that had been constructed before that time. A number of the *Thevaram* hymns have been sung in praise of the deities in some of these temples. The shrines of Thiruvadanaï, Rameswaram and Kalaiyarkoil (Kannappar) are among those celebrated in the *Thevaram* hymns. The temple at Tiruvattarakosamangai is celebrated in the hymns of Saint Manickavasagar. The Saivite *Nayanmar*, Ilayangudi Maranayanar was a native of Ilayangudi which is in the heart of the Marava country<sup>1</sup>.

Vaishnavism too, flourished in the Marava country and the Vaishnavite temples received very great support from the ruling kings from time to time. Three temples in the Marava country have been celebrated by the Alvars, and they are the Tirumayam, Tirukkoshtiyur and the Tiruppullani temples, which even today attract thousands of pious devotees all through the year<sup>2</sup>.

As already observed the religious beliefs and practices of the Hindus in the District are the same as obtained in other parts of the State. Various gods of the Hindu pantheon are worshipped in the District.

*Mariamman* is extensively worshipped in the District. She is held in great veneration and is known as 'Amma' (Mother) or *Mahamai* (a corruption of the word *Mahamayi*). They propitiate the deity with great fear that her wrath will result in the spread of epidemics. And vows are often taken to this goddess.

*Karuppan*, *Ayyanar*, *Draupathi*, *Mimeswaran* are the most popular village deities of the District.

**Kallars:**—The Kallars are, numerically the important and ethnologically, perhaps the most interesting of the castes in the District. They chiefly inhabit some portion of the Hanumanthangudi area in the District. Kallars are one of the three castes included in the category of *Mukkulathor*-viz.-Kallar, Marava and Agamudayan. Various meanings have been ascribed to explain the term Kalla. Since the early years of this century, the term has been made notorious by the application of the Criminal Tribes Act to the Piramalai Kallans of Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Thanjavur districts. According to tradition, the Kallars formed an important and strategic section of the armies of the Tamil Kings and Chiefs in olden days, when fighting was even more important

1, and 2. *The Setupatis of Ramnad*, By S. Tiruvengatachari, 1959, page 93.

profession than agriculture and supported a larger population. The Kallars then were advance guard, spies and gorilla troops, while the Maravas were then infantry troops and the Agamudayar were palace retainers and occupations forces. According to some historians the Kallars are supposed to be descendents of the Kalabirahs. Whatever might have been their origin, there always was a martial and fighting tradition attached to this people. The Royal family of Pudukkottai belongs to this caste. With the abolition of the old Zamindari system add the decline of the fortune of the Royal families and the general deterioration in the economic conditions of the dry cultivation areas of Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts the living conditions of the Kallars deteriorated. Their misery was aggravated by the hardship imposed by the Criminal Tribes Act. The rehabilitation measures under the Kallar Reclamation Scheme have brought certain relief to the younger generation of this caste, in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts.

The Kallars are found concentrated in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur districts and scattered in Tirunelveli. In view of their fighting qualities, occasional gifted leadership and the presence of a few wealthy landlords amongst them, in certain areas the Kallars are looked upon as a potentially powerful forces<sup>1</sup>. Now, profitable agriculture coupled with security of property in land has converted the great bulk of the Kallars into a contended and industrious population.

The Kallars are nominally Saivites, Their chief deity is *Alagar-samy*, the God of the great Alagar Koil, twelve miles to the north of the town of Madurai. To this temple they make large offerings and the deity called *Kallalagar* has always been regarded as their own peculiar deity<sup>2</sup>.

A remarkable custom of the Kallar is mentioned by Nelson, who states that many, if not the majority of them, have adopted the practice of circumcision. He also adds, that the practice is very ancient and suggests that it is a survival of a forcible conversion to Islam of a section of the Kurumbas, who fled northwards on the downfall of their kingdom<sup>3</sup>.

The women of this community are accustomed to stretch to the utmost possible limit the lobes of their ears. This is effected by boring the ear-lobes at an young age and inserting heavy pieces of metal, generally lead, in the apertures.

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1. Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, Report of the Backward Classes Commission, Tamil Nadu, Volume II, pages 29-30.

2. Census Report, 1891, page 216.

3. *Ibid*, page 216.

There is a curious custom among the Sivagangai Kallars. When a member of a certain *kilai* dies, a piece of new cloth should be given to the other male members of the same *kilai* by the heir of the deceased. The cloth thus obtained should be given to the sister of the person obtaining it. If her brother fails to do so, her husband will consider himself degraded and consequently will divorce her.

In the District the Kallars are not very much influenced by Brahmanical cults. They are divided into ten main endogamous subdivisions, which are territorial in origin. These are called, *Melnadu*, *Sivakudinadu*, the *Velunadu*, *Kunnankottai nadu*, *Kandadevi*, the *Puramalai nadu*, the *Tennalinadu*, etc., the *Pulayanadu*. These sections are further subdivided into exogamous sections called *Vaguppus*. Their social organisation is governed by these *Vaguppus*. Marriage is solely determined by the *Vaguppus* to which the parties belong. Their manner of observing ceremonies connected with child birth is remarkable and interesting. On the occasion of the first menstrual period, the Kallars observe pollution for seven or nine days. A ceremony is generally held on the seventh month of pregnancy, when the husband's sister prepares 'Pongal' (Cooked rice). The pregnant woman sits on a plank, and the rice is waved before her. She then stands up and bends down, while her sister-in-law pours milk from a betel or pipal leaf on her back. The ceremony ends with a feast. When a child is born in a family, the entire family observes pollution for thirty days. Among the Nattar Kallars, children are said to be named at any time after they are a month old. But among the Puramalai Kallars, a first born female child is named on the seventh day, after the ear-boring ceremony had been performed<sup>1</sup>. The ear-boring ceremony is usually done for the girls before the age of maturity.

As regards the disposal of the dead both burial and cremation are in vogue among the Kallars. The Kilnad Kallars usually bury their dead. The Puramalai Kallars usually burn their dead; and it is said that when a pregnant woman dies with child, the child is taken out and placed along side her funeral pyre.

**Maravars:**—The earliest inhabitants of the District are the Kallars and the Maravars, the virile communities with martial traditions. They style themselves as 'Mukkulattar' or the three classes. The three clans are Kallar, Maravar, and Agamudaiyar. Their inhabitation of the District is time immemorial and perhaps they are one among the original inhabitants of the sub-continent. The Maravars are now to be found all over the District and particularly in the taluks of Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur and the Kamudi area. The areas they occupy are more or less dry areas.

1. Castes and Tribes of Southern India by E. Thurston, page 82,

2. *Ibid.*, page 83.

They are a dark race of small stature with many distinctive peculiarities pointing them out as having sprung from an aboriginal tribe. In former days they were a fierce and turbulent race, famous for their martial prowess. At one time they temporarily held possession of the Pandyn Kingdom and at a later date their armies gave valuable assistance to Thirumalai Naik<sup>1</sup>. A marked characteristic of the caste is their sobriety.

The general title of the Maravars is *Thevar* (God) but some style themselves as *Talaivar* (Chief), *Servaikarar* (Captain) Karaiyalar (ruler of the coast) or *Rayar Vamsam* (Raja's clan).

The origin of this tribe is a much disputed problem. "The Maravars" H.A. Stuart writes: "must have been one of the first of the Dravidian tribes that penetrated to the South of the Peninsula and like the Kallans, they have been little affected by Brahmanical influences. The head of the Maravars is Sethupathi or Raja of Ramnad. "The Sethupathi line or Marava dynasty of Ramnad" R.J.E. Trucey, writes "claims great antiquity". According to popular legendary accounts, it had its rise during the time of the Great *Rama* himself, who is said to have appointed on his victorious return from *Lanka* (Ceylon) seven guardians of the passage on the bridge connecting Ceylon with the Mainland. Supposition places the rise of the family in the second or third century B.C. It rests its case principally up on a statement in the *Mahawanso*, according to which the last of the three Tamil invasion of Ceylon, which took place in the second or third century B.C., was under the leadership of seven chieftains who are supposed, owing to the silence of the Pandya records on the subject of the South Indian dealings with Ceylon, to have been neither Cheras, Cholas, or Pandyas, but more local adventurers whose territorial proximity and marauding ambition had tempted them to the undertaking<sup>2</sup>.

Another supposition places the rise of the family in the seventh or twelfth century A.D. There are two statements of this case, differing according to the source from which they arise. According to the one, which has its source in South India, the rise of the family took place in or about 1059 A.D., when Raja Raja, the Chola king, upon his invasion of Ceylon, appointed princes whom he knew to be loyal to himself and who according to some, had aided him in his conquest of all Pandya, to act as guardians of the passage by which his armies must cross to and fro, and supplies be received from the mainland. According to the other statement, which has its source in the Sinhalese records, the family took its rise from the appointment of Parakrama Bahu, a General of Lankapura, who according to very trustworthy Sinhalese epitome of the *Mahawanso* after

1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* by E. Thurston, Volume V, page 25.

2. *Madras Census Report*, 1891.

3. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* by E. Thurston, volume, V, Page 25.

conquering Pandya remained some time at Rameswaram, building a temple there and while on the island struck Kahapanas, coins similar to those of the Sinhalese series. Whichever of these statements we may accept, the facts seem to point to the rise of the family in the eleventh or 12th Century A.D., and inscriptions quoted from Dr. Burgess by Robert Swell show that grants were made by the Sethupathi prince in 1414, in 1489 in 1500, and finally as late as 1540. These bring the line down to within two generations of the time when Muthukrishnappa Nayak is said, in 1604, to have found affairs sadly disordered in the Marava country and to have re-established the old family in the person of Sadaiayka Thevar Udaiyar Sethupathi<sup>1</sup>.

Though in religions the Maravas are Saivites they believe in worshipping with zeal and fervour the peculiar deities of *Karuppanna-samy* and *Bhadrakali*, *Maduraiveeran* and others which they habitually propitiate with offerings of flesh and fruit. They wear Saivite sectarian marks on their forehead.

Their customs differ fundamentally from those of other Hindus in many important matters. Except in the case of the women of the Sembunattu division, it is customary for the widows to remarry; and also the wives who cannot agree with their husbands, procure divorce from them and marry again.<sup>2</sup>

There is a peculiar custom among the orthodox Maravars of Ramanathapuram to wear the hair very long. With the exception of the chiefs, their women lengthen the opertures in their ear-lobes to the extent of several inches by hanging in them wonderfully large and heavy metal ornaments<sup>3</sup>. H.A. Stuart, writes that there are no ceremonies connected with birth. A woman is considered as polluted for ten days after her confinement, at the expiry of which time there is a peculiar ceremony and a feast to relatives. But those who are too poor to afford those ceremonies content themselves with purifying the house by sprinkling the urine of cows about the premises<sup>4</sup>.

The dead are either burnt or buried. The female relatives of the deceased put rice in the mouth of the corpse before it is removed from the house and at the burning ground the same service is performed by other near relatives. The son or other person most closely related to the deceased draws water in a pot, walks round the funeral pyre three times and then breaks the pot. Afterwards all who attended, bathe in a stream or elsewhere. On the next day the bones and ashes are thrown into the river<sup>5</sup>. The Sembunattur Maravars regard the Agamudaiyars as their servants. It is the

1. Castes and Tribes of India, E. Thurston, page 26.

2. Ramnad Manual, page 31.

3. *Ibid*, page 32.

4. Madras Census Report, 1891, page 278.

5. Census Report, 1891, page 218.

Agamudaiyar who brings the water for washing the corpse; it is also the Agamudaiyar, and not the son of the deceased who carries the fire pot to the burial ground. The corpse is carried thither on a bier or a palanquin. The grave is dug by an *Andi*. Salt, powdered bricks and sacred ashes are placed in the grave and then the corpse is placed in it in a sitting posture. The Kondayam Kottai Maravars burn their dead.

*The Agamudaiyars* :—The Agamudaiyars are closely connected with the Maravars by descent and they also resemble them most closely in appearance, habits and customs. The chiefs of the Maravars are accustomed to marry Agamudaiya women. Of the children born of such marriages, the males must marry Agamudaiya females and belong to their wives' caste, whilst the females must marry Maravars and belong to their husband's caste. The ordinary titular name, of an Agamudaiyar is *Servaikaran*.

It is noted in the Tanjore Manual that the word Agamudaiyar is 'derived from the root *aham*, which in Tamil has many significations. In one of these, it means a house, or land and hence it has two meanings, house-holder and land-holder, the suffix *Udaiyar* indicating ownership". According to Nelson "the name is said by Rev. G.U.Pope in his edition of the Abbe Dubois's work to be derived from *Aham*, a temple, and *padi*, a step, and to have been given to them in consequence of their serving about the steps of the temples". H.A.Stuart writes that "the name Agamudaiyan is commonly derived from 'Aham' or Agam' pride and Udayan, a possessor". They also style themselves as Vellalas and Pillais.

The Agamudaiyars are Saivites. Of the three castes, Kallar Maravars and Agamudaiyars, the last are said to have alone been greatly influenced by contact with Brahminism. They engage Brahmin priests for their birth, marriage and death ceremonies like Vellalars.<sup>1</sup>

Their religious belief consists of worshipping various minor deities as *Aiyandar*, *Pidari* and *Karuppannasamy*. These gods are worshipped with great fear and zeal.

In their manners and customs they closely follow the Vellalars. It is their custom to carry the fire pot to the burning ground at the funeral of a Maravar, and also to bring the water for washing the corpse. Their death custom is greatly influenced by Brahminism. *Pandarams* assist at the funeral ceremonies. On the second day after death, the son and others go to the spot where the corpse buried or burnt, and make food offerings to the deceased. Presents are given to the Brahmins. The death pollution is removed by sprinkling holy water.

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1. Madras Census Report, 1891.

*The Yadavas* :—The Yadavas or Idaiyars or Konars are cowherds and shepherds, whose proper occupation as herdsmen is confined to tending and milking cows and buffaloes as well as selling milk and milk products. They do not tend or otherwise deal in sheep or goats. The Ramanathapuram District is extremely ill-suited for grazing purposes and there is not sufficient employment for the majority of the Idaiyars who live in it. Many of them, therefore have become gardeners, agriculturists and petty traders.

This caste has many sub-divisions, of which, the *Kalkatti* and *Pasi* Idaiyars are so called from their custom of wearing sixteen glass beads along with their *tali*. The Semban Idaiyars take their name from *Sambu* or *Siva* ; the Kallar Idaiyars take their name from the Kallars. The Idaiyars take a high social position due to the tradition that Lord Krishna was brought up by their caste and due to the fact that they are only purveyors of milk, ghee, etc., and so are indispensable to the community.

The Idaiyars observe some peculiar customs in performing their marriages and funerals. It is said that when a bride enters the room decorated for the marriage ceremony, her followers pay to the sister of the bridegroom, the money called the “ Bride’s room gold ” and that when the bridegroom goes to the house of his mother-in-law his young companions arrest him on the way and do not release him until he pays a piece of gold. At their funerals it is said, a Maravar who styles himself “ the father of the grandfather ” comes amidst the assembly and addresses it with a few prescribed words. A Brahmin priest officiates at their weddings and the sacred fire is used. The bridegroom’s sister ties the *Tali*.

*The Nadars (Shanars)* :—According to the Census Report, 1891, the “ Shanars are the great toddy-drawing caste of the South of the Peninsula. They are found in all Tamil districts and are especially numerous in Tirunelveli, Madurai, and Coimbatore.” They also form an important community in the Ramanathapuram District. They have become popular in the District due to their successful trade, in the District as well as throughout India. They are a hard working and industrious people and pauperism is almost unknown among them. Many of them are farmers and many of them are also engaged successfully in trade.

The origin of the term *Shanar* is much disputed and it is found nowhere in Tamil literature in that form. As late as 13th Century, the Shanars were known as *Izhavas* and a tax called the *Izhaputchai* was levied by Tamil kings on all toddy drawers. The Madras Census Report, 1891, says that “the word *Shanar* is ordinarily derived from Tamil *Saru* meaning ‘Toddy’ but a learned

missionary derives it from *san* (a span) and *nar* (fibre or string), that is the noose, one span in length, used by the Shanars in climbing palm trees. According to another supposition referred by Thurston, "in the inscriptions of Rajaraja Chola (A.D. 984—1013), toddy-drawers are referred to as *Ilavans*. According to *Pingalanai* a dictionary of the 10th or 11th Century, the names of the toddy-drawer castes are Palaiyar, Thuvusar and Paduvar. To these, the *Chudamani Nikandu*, a Tamil dictionary of the 16th Century adds *Saundigar*. Apparently, therefore, the Sanskrit word *Saundigar* must have been introduced (probably by Brahmins) between the 11th and 16th centuries and is a Sanskrit rendering of the word *Iluvan*. From *Saundigar* to Shanar, it is not a long step in the corruption, of words<sup>1</sup>. There is also a view, that the word 'Shanar' is derived from the Tamil word *Sanror* or *Sanrar*. The title of the Southern Shanars is *Nadan*, or *Nadar* while in the north they are generally called *Gramani*.

Among the orthodox Nadars when a boy is sent to the school for the first time, and when he begins to learn the alphabets formal ceremonies are observed. They also observe the occasion of the attainment of sixteenth year by a boy, when he is allowed to wear the head cloth (*Urumalkattu*). Burying the dead is the general practice among the Nadars, but in a few places some burn them. The manner of performing their burial is remarkable. They bury their dead with the head to the South and feet to the North. It is also the custom among the Nadars to bury elder and respectable members of their fold in a sitting posture, facing the east, known as *samadhi*. They were all originally Hindus. Subsequently due to oppression by conquerors a few of them embraced other religions like Christianity and Islam. Most of the converts were to the Christian faith. A few who converted themselves to Islam lost their caste identity and have completely identified themselves with other Muslims. The Christian converts still continue to identify themselves with their Hindu-brethren to keep up the combined solidarity of their community against common oppression. To keep up their identity with their Hindu-brethren, the Christian converts follow their customary caste practices without prejudice to the Christian dogmas; and hence Christianity was allowed to be practised by these people without affecting their customary caste practices. It was common in those days that in this community one brother will do pooja to God *Shiva* in one of the rooms of the family and the other brother will pray to God *Jesus* in another room in the same house. The close identity with these two sects is so well-knit that even today a Hindu Nadar does not feel reluctant to marry a Christian Nadar though not bound by ties of relationship, and also both these sects mingle with each other very freely in all social functions. This identity is kept up due to the fact that Nadars became Christians not out of coercion or for getting favours from the Europeans but of their own free will and conviction.

1. Castes and Tribes of Southern India by Thurston, Volume VI, page 368.



*The Reddiars* :—The Reddiars are an agricultural class speaking Telugu and apparently stand in the same relation to other Telugu castes as the Vellalars are to the other Tamil castes. They are reputed to be excellent farmers of the District, energetic, orderly in their behaviour and of frugal habits. They live principally in Pallimadam and Kamudi areas and they cultivate chiefly cotton and dry crops rather than wet crops<sup>1</sup>.

Regarding their origin, the earliest portion of the *Kongu Chronicle* (one of the manuscripts of the Mackenzie Collection) gives a series of short notices of the reigns of twenty-eight kings, who ruled the country previous to its conquest by the Cholas. These kings belonged to two distinct dynasties. The earlier line was of the Solar race and the later line, of the Ganga race. The earlier dynasty had a succession of seven kings of the Reddi, a tribe very extensively distributed, which has of various periods, left its mark throughout almost every part of India.

According to the Rev. T. Foulkes, the Reddis are found under the various forms, e.g., Irattu, Ireth, Radda, Rahtor, Rathur, Rashtrakuta, Ratta, Reddi, etc. Dr. Burnell seems inclined to look upon the family as of Dravidian origin as he gives Rashtra as an instance of Sanskritisation of Dravidian names and considers it to be a mythological perversion of 'Ratta' which is the same as Kanarese and Telugu, 'Reddi'.

By religion they are both Vaishnavites and Saivites and they worship a variety of deities such as *Thailamma*, *Nagarappamma*, *Pulamma*, *Anarkamma*, *Muneeswara*, *Polaramma* and *Desamma*.

Their manner of disposing the dead is very much different from that of other Hindu castes. The news of a death in the community is conveyed by a (Parayar) *toti*. The son of the deceased receives a measure containing a light from a barber and goes three times round the corpse. At the cremation ground, the barber, instead of the son, goes thrice round the corpse, carrying a pot of water, and is followed by the son, who makes holes in the pot. The water which trickles out is sprinkled over the corpse. The barber then breaks the pot into small fragments.

*Nattukkottai Chettiars*<sup>2</sup> :—According to Francis<sup>3</sup>, "Of all the Chettis, perhaps the most distinctive and interesting are the Nattukkottai Chettis, who are wealthy money-lenders with head quarters in the Tiruppattur and Devakottai divisions of the Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram Zamindaris". They are the most enterprising of all the trading castes in the South, travelling freely to Burma, the Straits Settlements and Ceylon and having in some cases correspondents in London and on the Continent. It has been said that Nattukkottai Chettiars, in organisation and business methods are as remarkable as European merchants. They are the important community in the District.

1. Ramanathapuram Manual, Page 33.

2. Please see also the chapter on "Banking Trade and Commerce".

3. Madras Census Report, 1901.

The Nattukkottai Chettians trace their origin to Kaveripumpattanam, a flourishing seaport in the days of the Chola kings; and they say that they left that City and migrated to the Madurai District, because the Chola king began to persecute them when they refused to give their daughters in marriage to him. They first settled in Nattarasankottai about three miles north-east of Sivaganga.

Concerning their origin the following story is referred by Thurston<sup>1</sup>. Oppressed by a certain ruler, the Vaisyas of lunar race living in the town of Santhyapuri emigrated in a body to Kancheepuram in the Tondamandalam country in the year 204 of the *kali-yuga*. The King of Kancheepuram gave them permission to settle in his country, and made grants of lands, temples and madams to them. They stayed there for a very long time, but being troubled by heavy taxes and fines they left that part of the country about 2312 *Kaliyuga* and settled in the Chola country. The Chola king being much impressed with them, bestowed on them the privilege of placing the crown on the head of a new ruler at the time of coronation. In those days, the town of Kaveripumpattanam is said to have been in a very flourishing state and in it the north street was occupied by Vaisyas from other countries. Being unwilling to disturb them, the King made the new settlers occupy the east, west and south streets. As a mark of respect they were allowed to use flags with the figure of a lion on them and use golden vessels (*Kalasam*) in their houses. They all at the instance of the king, became disciples of one Isanya Sivachariyar of *Pathanjalikshetra* (Chidambaram). About 3775 *Kaliyuga*, Puvandi Chola Raja imprisoned several of the Vaisya women, where on all the eight thousand Vaisya families destroyed themselves leaving their male children to be taken care of by a religious teacher named Admanadhachariar. In all 1,502 children were thus brought up. Later on, Puvandi Chola fell ill, and knowing his recovery to be impossible, sent for the Vaisya boys and asked them to attend to the coronation of his son, Rajabhushana Chola. But they said that as they were bachelors they could not comply with his request. The king made them marry Vellala girls. Those of the west street took as wives, girls of the Karkathar section; those of the east street, girls of Sozhia section; and those of the south street, girls of the Kaniyala section. The three groups became disciples of three different *madams*, viz., Tiruvarur, Kumbakonam and Vanchium. Later, a Pandya king, named Sundara Pandya, is said to have asked the Chola king to induce some of the Vaisyas to settle down in the Pandya territory. They accordingly once more emigrated in a body and reached the village of Onkarakudi on a Friday. They were allowed to settle in the tract of the country north of the river *Vaigai*, east of the *Iranmalai* and south of the *Vellar*.

1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, by E. Thurston, Volume V, page 259.

The Madura Manual refers to the derivation of the word *Nattukkottai* as follows : “ the word Nattukkottai is said to be a corruption of Nattarasankottai, the name of the small village near Sivaganga. But this derivation is doubtful.” According to Thurston the name is usually said to be derived from *Nattukkottai* (country fort). At present, the Nattukkottai Chettiars are divided into nine divisions: Ilayathankudi Koil, Mathur Koil, Vairavankoil, Irayanur Koil, Pillayarpatti Koil, Nemam Koil, Iluppaikudi Koil, Suraikudi Koil and Velangudi Koil. The general customs, manners and beliefs of these divisions do not fundamentally vary from each other.

By religion they are devout Saivites and many of the male members of the caste wear a *rudraksha*, usually set in gold, round their necks <sup>1</sup>. The good faith, honesty and the religious beliefs of a Nattukkottai Chetti are proverbial. They have spent very large sums upon several of the famous Saivite shrines in the State, notably those at Chidambaram, Madurai and Tiruvannamalai<sup>2</sup>. Being Saivites, they do not generally care for Vaishnava temples and even among the Saiva temples, only those which have special sanctity and have been sung about by the Saiva *Nainars* or *Bhaktas* are patronised by them<sup>3</sup>.

There are three *madams*, whereat the Nattukkottai Chettiars are initiated into their religion, at Patharakkudi (or Padanakkudi<sup>4</sup>) and Kila for males and Thulavar for females. Their women folk also worship minor deities like *Aiyandar*, *Muneeswara* and *Karuppan*. They are also said to worship two village goddesses, called *Sellathamman* and *Kannudayamman*, at Nattarsankottai<sup>5</sup>.

A remarkable custom that prevails among them “ obliges all, married members to cook separately and eat their meals, though they live in the same house. Even the widowed mother is no exception to this rule. Unmarried members live with their parents until they are married. Allotments of rice and other necessities are annually made to the several semi-independent members of the household. This custom has given rise to the commodious houses in which members of this caste usually reside.”

The male members of the caste have the lobes of the ears bored very conspicuously but seldom wear ornaments therein. The wives of even wealthy men wear a cheap cloth and do household work<sup>6</sup>.

Their manner of observing ceremonies are remarkable. In connection with pregnancy, two ceremonies are performed. They are the *Marunthidal* (medicine giving) and the *Thirtham kudiththal*

1. Castes and Tribes of Southern India by Thurston, Volume V, page 251.

2. *Ibid* page 252.

3. *Ibid* page 254.

4. Castes and Tribes of Southern India by Thurston, Volume V, page 251.

5. *Ibid* page 270.

(drinking of holy water). In the fifth month, on an auspicious day, the sister-in-law of the pregnant woman, amidst blowing of conch shells by women, extracts the juice from the leaves of five plants and gives it to the woman to drink. In the seventh month the woman is given consecrated water (*thirtham*) from the temple. All the first born children go through a ceremony called *Pudhumai* (newness). On an auspicious day, when a child is two years old, the maternal uncle of the child ties on its neck, strings of coral and glass beads to which ornaments of pearls and precious stones are added. The child is then placed on an oval wooden tray which is held by the mother and her sister-in-law. They go round three times with the tray. Thereafter the child's aunt, carries it round to be blessed by those who have assembled. Presents are then given to the child by friends and relatives. On the second and third day, the coral and bead ornaments are removed and on the fourth day the child, if a male, is shaved<sup>1</sup>. This ceremony is called *Pudhumai*, (புதுமை). When a child is seven years old, another ceremony is performed, at which twenty-seven lamps representing the twenty-seven stars are lighted on plantain leaf, worshipped and thrown away. The ceremony takes place in the month of *Karthigai* (November-December) for boys and is called *Karthigaipudhumai* and in the month of *Marghazhi* (December-January) for girls, when it is called *Thiruvadirai pudhumai*<sup>2</sup>.

When death occurs among the Nattukkottai Chettiars, the news is conveyed by the *Thandakaran* or the caste-messenger. The head of the corpse is shaved, washed and decorated. In front of the house, a *Panthai* (booth) supported by four posts and roofed with twigs is erected. Beneath this the corpse is laid and all present go round it thrice. Then the corpse is carried to the burning ghat. The eldest son carries the pot of fire in the funeral procession.

*The Balijas* :—One of the sub-groups of the Naidu community is the Balija. As regards number, this group cannot claim many. A considerable number of them are confined to the Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks of the District.

The origin of the Balijas is related in a legend, as follows : An appeal was made by Parvati to her lord, Siva, for help and guidance to make her look more charming than ever. It was a great pleasure for Siva to satisfy the wishes of his consort. Siva, accordingly created out of his hair, a person, who, on command, brought from the earth a heavy load of bangles and turmeric powder, which were at once pressed into service by Parvati. Bedecked with bangles and pasted with turmeric, she looked into the mirror to survey the improvement in her appearance, only to be still more dissatisfied with her reflection. Then her father implored the help of Vishnu who directed him to perform a *Yaga*. A *Yaga*

1. Madras District Gazetteers, Madurai, Page 118.

2. Venkatarama Iyyer, K. R., A Manual of Pudukkottai State, page 110.

was performed and according to the legend, a person appeared who brought with him various sorts of finer materials to the great satisfaction of Parvati. This *Yaga*-born person is claimed to be the ancestor of the Balijas.

Sometimes they claim to be descended from the Kauravas of *Mahabaratha*. The *Desa* division of the Balijas maintain that they are the direct descendants of the Baliya (Nayak) kings of Madurai, Thanjavur and Vijayanagar. They don't wear sacred thread; nor do they follow the precepts of *Vedas*. The general title of the Balijas is Naidu. Their mother-tongue is Telugu, although they are well conversant in Tamil. They originally belonged to Andhra.

The Kavaras who are generally called Naidus have got their own tradition which recognises them as the inhabitants originally of Venghi, the seat of the Eastern Chalukyas. The King ordered to set fire to their houses on their refusal to give him permission to see a *gosha* women of their caste. Some voluntarily courted death in flames, while others escaped to the coast, carrying with them boxes in which their women had been locked up. Then they moved to a flourishing town called Anakapalli, where they made their permanent settlement.

*Tottiyars or Kambalathars* :—The Telugu speaking community forms an important linguistic group of the District. Among them the Tottiyars or Kambalathar form an important caste. They also form one of the sub-divisions of the Vadugars. They are a very industrious and energetic section who exhibit great talents reclaiming waste lands. Their usual occupation is cultivation. They chiefly live in Kamudi and Pallimadam area. They are said to have originally come first from the region of the Tungabhatra to Vijayanagar on account of Muslim persecution and subsequently from there to Madurai along with Vijayanagar armies, when the Nayak rule was established in the country. This caste is divided into many sub-castes like Vekkili, Thokala and Yera-kola. Regarding their customs, manners and beliefs there are no fundamental differences between these castes. They generally speak Telugu, which is their mother tongue.

There is a curious custom among the Tottiyar caste. On the occasion of a wedding among the Tottiyars, a fowl is killed near the marriage pots and with its blood, a mark is made on the fore-heads of the bride and bridegroom on their entry into the booths<sup>1</sup>. Regarding their religious beliefs, the Tottiyars have a staunch belief in ancestral worship and their ancestors are represented by a number of stones set up somewhere within the village boundaries. Such places are called 'malai'. When a member of the caste dies some of the bones, it is said, are buried in those places along with a coin, and a stone is planted on the spot. These stones are arranged in an irregular circle<sup>2</sup>.

1. Madras District Gazetteers Madurai, page 133.

2. *Ibid*, page 134.

At a Tottiyar funeral, fire is carried to the burning ground by a chakkiliar and the pyre is lighted not by the sons but by the relatives (*sambandhis*). In religion, members of this caste are guided by *Gurus* of their own caste called "Kodangi Nayakkar", who are supposed to be deeply learned in theology and astrology. Both men and women are specially addicted to the practice of magic and are on that account regarded with great awe by the population generally. The agnomen commonly adopted by men of this caste is Nayakan or Naidus.

*The Rajus* :—The Raju Community at Rajapalayam stands as an exclusive social unit, having all its social relationships confined within Rajapalayam itself. The Telugu equivalent of the term Raja is Raju. Both have the same connotation indicating that the people bearing this surname were the ruling classes of the old times. About the Rajus, H. A. Stuart writes, that this is a Telugu caste, though represented by small bodies in some of the Tamil districts. The Ramnad Manual refers to the Rajus as the descendants of emigrants from the Telugu country but who were subsequent settlers sent for by the former rulers of the Ramnathapuram country and endowed with landed inams for the purpose of their remaining in the country and assisting in temple worship and ceremonies. Thurston records that the descendants of the original emigrants are said to have served under the southern chieftains, especially Thirumalai Nayak. The migration of this Raju community was about four centuries ago evidently during the reign of the Nayak kings of the Chola and Pandya kingdoms who were also Telugus. In course of time they settled in and around the present Rajapalayam.

In religion, they are mostly Vaishnavites, though a few follow Saivism. The worship of village deities forms a part of the religious belief of all. But they worship *Aiyandar* and carry *Kavadi* to Palani in performance of vows. Their family priests are Brahmins. Their peculiar goddess is called *Numishamba*, who would seem to represent *Parvathi*. Claiming to be Kshatriyas, the Rajus wear sacred thread and are very proud and particular in their conduct. Flesh eating is allowed for them.

Their customs and manners are similar to those of Brahmins. They observe the Brahminical rites of *Punyahavachanam* (purification), *Jatakarma* (birth ceremony) *Namakaramam* (name giving sacred ceremony). *Chaulam* (tonsure) and *Upanayanam* (thread ceremony). All these ceremonies are generally performed before the marriage function. But it has become a settled custom now to have the *Upanayanam* ceremony performed on the marriage day itself.

There has been a curious custom among them that for three or four months from the time of marriage, the son-in-law should remain in the father-in-law's house, with his bride. Now this period is extended to longer intervals in most of the cases.

Their manner of disposing the dead are elaborate. The pollution caused by a death in a house is observed for ten days ; and on the eleventh day the ceremony of purification is performed. This ceremony is performed near the well or tank intended for that purpose; subsequently the feeding of the public takes place in the house on a fairly large scale. On the twelfth day is performed the ceremony of giving gifts of rice, vegetables, clothes, etc., to the *Purohits* (all of whom are Telugu Brahmins) and other Brahmins also. That night the persons who performed the funeral ceremonies are given presents with dhoties by their respective *Sambanthis*. Now even this is becoming more showy and costly; the presentation is extended to the ladies and children also in the form of gifts of costly saris, jewels, etc.

*The Kaikolars* :—The *Kaikolars* also called as Senguntha Mudaliar and *Naynar*, are scattered throughout the District with a slight concentration in and around the Paramagudi Taluk. They claim, according to a tradition, to have descended from *Virabahu*. The people of the earth were once harassed by mighty demons and they appealed for help to God *Siva*. *Siva* shot forth from his eyes six sparks of fire, which was so frightening that *Parvathi* retired to her apartment immediately, when nine beads dropped down from her anklets. The beads were converted by *Siva* into nine females who gave birth to nine heroes. Those heroes under the leadership of God *Subramanya* engaged the demons in a deadly fight and finally slew them. *Virabahu* is said to be one of those heroes. The *Kaikolars* are said to have descended from him. In obedience to the direction of *Siva* they took to the peaceful profession of weaving. *Kaikol* is identified as the weapon carried by God *Subramanya*. From the reference to God *Subramanya* who is one of the earliest of the Tamil Gods, it may be inferred that the *Kaikolars* are one of the ancient indigenous tribes of Ramanathapuram.

*The Brahmin* ;—The Brahmins though they constitute a very small percentage of the population occupy a conspicuous position in society. They are the repositories of Vedic knowledge, priests, *prohits*, astrologers, etc. They are primarily divided into two well known religious sects, the Saivites and Vaishnavites. The Saivites are either the Saivites proper or the *Smarthas*. The Saivites proper believe that there is only one God *Siva*, who, is self-existent and is not liable to lose his personality. The *Smarthas* on the other hand recognise the *Tirumurtis*—*Brahma*, *Vishnu* and *Siva*, as equal manifestations of the supreme spirit and believe that the soul of man (*jiva*) is only a portion of the infinite spirit (*atman*) and that it is capable of being absorbed into the *atman*. Among the Vaishnavites, there are two principal sects in the South—those who are the followers of Sri Ramanuja and call themselves Sri Vaishnavites and those who are the followers of Sri Madhavacharya and call themselves Madhavas. All Brahmins, whether Vaishnavites or Saivites have according to the *Sutras* to go through the

*Samskaras* (rites) *Garbhadanam*, *Pumsavanam*, *Simantham*, *Jatakarnam*, *Namakaranam*, *Annaprasanam*, *Choulam*, *Upanaynam* and *Vivaham*. These rites are believed to purify the body and the spirit, but not all of them are in practice performed at the present day. The *Garbhadana* or impregnation ceremony should be performed on the fourth day of the marriage ceremonies. The *Pumsavanam* and the *Simantham* are performed together during the sixth or eighth month of the first pregnancy. The *Jatakaranam*, *Namakaranam* (naming ceremony), *Annaprasanam* (food giving ceremony), and *Choulam* (tonsure ceremony) are ordinarily celebrated one after the other on the *Upanayanam* day. The *Upanayanam* is essentially a ceremony of initiation. From the orthodox point of view it should be performed before the age of eight, but in practice it is performed much later. The wearing of the sacred thread is a sign that the boy has gone through the ceremony. The *Vivaham* or the marriage ceremony, resembles even today, that of the *Vedic* times in all essentials. All sections of Brahmins closely follow the *Grihya sutras* relating to their *Sakha*<sup>1</sup>.

The Tamil Brahmins are mostly Smarthas and Vaishnavas. Each of these sects is divided and subdivided into a number of smaller groups based on sectarian, occupational, territorial, ritualistic and other differences. Among the Smartha subdivisions may be mentioned *Vadama* (the Northerners) the *Brahacharanam*, the *Ashtasahasram*, the *Vatima* or the *Maddhima*, etc. The *Vadamas* claim to be superior to the other classes and they worship both Siva and Vishnu but follow the Smartha customs in every way. The *Brahacharanams* are more Saivite and more orthodox than the *Vadamas*. The *Ashtasahasrams* are considered to be inferior to the *Vadamas* and the *Brahacharanams*. They are, however, like the *Brahacharanams*, more Saivite than the *Vadamas*. The *Vattimas* are said to be noted for their economical habits and for their sense of corporate unity. The *Kaniyalaras* are mostly temple servants and wear Vaishnava marks. There are two distinct groups of Vaishnavas, the *Vadagalais* (Northerners) and the *Tengalais* (Southerners). They are easily distinguished by the marks on their foreheads; the *Vadagalais* put on a U-shaped mark and the *Tengalais* a Y-shaped mark. Each one of the groups is divided into the *Sri Vaishnavas*, the *Vaikhanasas*, the *Pancharatras* and the *Hebbars*. The *Tengalai* group also consists, in addition, the *Mandyas*. All Vaishnavas are expected to undergo a ceremony of initiation into Vaishnavism, after the *Upanayanam* ceremony<sup>2</sup>.

*The Pattunulkarans (Sourashtras)*:—The *Pattunulkarans* are a caste of Surat silk weavers whose ancestors were induced to settle in the District by one of the earliest Nayak kings. They

1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* by Edgar Thurston, 1910, Volume 1, pages 323—349.

2. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* by Edgar Thurston 1909, Volume, 1, —349.



chiefly live in Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi, where they are found in large numbers. They are skilful and industrious workmen. They generally keep aloof from other castes and live independently of general society, speaking a foreign tongue and preserving intact the customs of the land of their origin. They are easily distinguishable, in appearance from Tamilians. They are slight yellowish in colour and have handsome features<sup>1</sup>. They claim to be Brahmins and support their claim on a *Sasana* issued by Queen Mangammal. In their customs and manners including those of marriage and funeral they follow more the Brahmin than the Dravidian customs. They use titles like Ayyangar, Ayyar, Rao, and Sastrigal and wear the sacred thread like the Brahmins. They prohibit widow remarriage. As regards their religious beliefs, they worship both Saiva and Vaishnava deities and they are vegetarians. A curious ceremony conforming their foreign origin is said to be performed at their weddings. Before the date of the wedding, the bridegroom's party goes to the bride's house and ask formally for the girl's hand. The bride's relations then ask the party in a set form of words who they are and where they come from and they reply that they are from Surat, that they resided at Devagiri, that they travelled South to Vijayanagar and thence came to Madurai. They have their own *Sabha* to manage their affairs and they are experts in silk weaving<sup>2</sup>.

They celebrate the *namakarna* or name-giving ceremony on the eleventh day after child birth. The eighth child, whether male or female, is called Krishna, owing to the tradition that *Krishna* was born as the eighth child of *Vasudeva*. The *anna-prasana* or the first feeding of the child, is sometimes celebrated at the end of the first year, but usually as a preliminary to some subsequent ceremony. Sometimes, in performance of a vow, boys are taken to the shrine at Tirupati for the tonsure ceremony. The *Upanayana* is performed between the seventh and the twelfth years, but neither *Brahmacharya* nor *Samavartana* is observed.

The dead are burnt and the remains of the bones are collected and consigned to the river water. Death pollution lasts for ten days. The *Shedha* or annual ceremony, (when oblations are offered to ancestors), is observed. Their custom allows the widows to retain their hair, but they remove the *bottu* (thali).

*The Devangas* :—This caste is called variously as Jada, Dendra, Devara Dera, Saniyan and Sedan, form a small percentage of the population of the District, with a high concentration in and around Aruppukkottai. They are a caste of weavers.

Devangas claim to descend from *Devalan*. It is told that *Brahma* once appointed *Manu* for weaving clothes for *Devas* and people, which duty *Manu* performed to everybody's satisfaction

1. Manual of Ramanad, page 37.

2. District Gazetteers, Madurai, page 125.

till the time of his ascent to heaven. With nobody to weave, the *Devas* approached *Brahma* for help, who directed them to *Siva*, who created one *Devalan* to weave clothes to cover the limbs and bodies of *Devas* and men. The descendants of *Devalan* are called *Devangas*. (*Deva Angam* means limb of God). *Devalan*, it is told performed a severe penance to obtain thread from the lotus stalks springing from the navel of *Vishnu*. On his way he met, and paid homage to a *Rakshasa* named *Vairadantan* who was doing penance in the disguise of a pious saint. The *Rakshasa* cast-off his false coverage and showed himself in his true colours. Disillusioned and dreaded, *Devalan* invoked the help of *Vishnu* and *Chandanayaki*. The latter came in person on the back of a lion and slew the *Rakshasas*. The *Asuras* who were thus slain were *Vairadantan* (Diamond-Toothed), *Pugainethran* (smoke-eyed), *Pugaimugan* (smoke-faced), *Chitrasenan* (leader of armies) and *Jeyadrathan* (victory-car). The bloods of these five were coloured, yellow, red, white, green and black. *Devalan* dyed his threads in those bloods.

*The Scheduled Castes* :—As enumerated at the Census of 1961, there are 3,32,867 persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. They are found in all the taluks of the District. Pallars, Parayars and Chakkiliars constitute an appreciable number among them.

The Pallars are mostly agricultural labourers. The name Pallar is said to be derived from *Pallam*, a pit, in which they were said to be standing when the castes were originally formed. According to another school of thought, which appears more probable word is said to be derived from 'low-ground' or 'wet cultivation' in which the Pallars are experts. They have a number of subdivisions such as the *Aiya* (father), the *Amma* (mother) the *Anja* (father) and *Atta* (mother) and the *Thondaman*. They are endogamous. The headman of the Pallar is called Kudumbar and he is assisted by a Kaladi and sometimes a caste messenger called Variyar whose business is to summon people to attend caste meetings, marriages, funerals, etc. The mother-tongue of the Pallar is Tamil.

They are Saivites. They perform *pujas* to *grama devatas* (village deities). Formerly they also used to indulge in animal sacrifices. Their common titles are generally Muppar, Kudumbar and Mannadi.

The Paraiyar who constitute a good number of the Scheduled Castes are employed as agricultural labourers, grave diggers, village watchmen, scavengers, etc. According to Bishop Caldwell the name *Paraiyan* is derived from the Tamil word '*Parai*' (drum) as certain Parayars act as drummers at marriages, funerals and village festivals. Their custom allows polygamy and widow remarriage. Their funeral rites are very simple. The corpse is carried on a litter of palm leaf mats and bamboos, wrapped in a

new colth and on the third or fifth day after death, a *palsadangu*, or milk ceremony is performed when some milk is poured out by the relatives as an offering to the spirit of the deceased. The Parayars are Saivites or Vaishnavites. Though they acknowledge the existence of one Supreme, Spritual being, they generally worship *devatas* (village deities). They are called *Amma* (mothers). More generally they worship one particular mother called *Grama Devata* such as *Ellamma*, *Mungilamma*, *Padaiyattal* or *Pidariyamma*.

The Chakkiliars who form an appreciable number in the District are leather workers. They are very large in numbers in the Paramagudi area. As no mention is made of this caste either in early Tamil literature or in inscriptions, it is probable that they might be immigrants from the Telugu or Kanarese districts. Their gods include *Madurai Veeran*, *Mariamamma*, *Muneeswara*, *Draupathi* and *Gangamma*. Of these the last is the important and her festival is celebrated annually, if possible. The *avaram* plant (cassia auriculata) is held in much veneration by them. They seem to have a peculiar belief that if their children wear leather straps specially made for them they help their growth<sup>1</sup>.

The traditional accounts current among the Scheduled Castes point to their having originally held a high position in the social scale. Later on they appear to have gone down in the social scale and even their approach was considered as pollution by the so called higher castes and they were kept segregated. In olden days as a rule the houses of the Scheduled Castes were to be situated far away from the other residential quarters in villages. They were also obliged to use only wells and burial grounds set apart for their exclusive use. However, with the rapid spread of various ameliorative measures taken by the Government in recent years, the social and economic advancement of the Scheduled Castes has registered a marked progress.

*The Ex-criminal Tribes* :—The existence of ex-criminal tribes is a unique problem of the District. There are three ex-criminal tribes in the District, namely, the Kallars, the Maravars, and the Koravars. These criminals were persons who could not conform to the norms of conduct prescribed by the State and Society and who due to certain factors of heredity and environment, came into conflict with the existing laws and became chronically unreconciled individuals to normal social order. The crimes in which Kallars took a leading part are dacoity in gangs and stealing with or without violence as opportunities offered. The Koravars have been notified as criminal tribes under various names. Their skill in burglaries, their daring in dacoities and the consummate manner in which they organise crimes throughout the length and breadth of the country are well known. The Koravar tribe

1. E. Thurston, "Castes and Tribes of Southern India", Volume II, page 7.

was notified quite early under the Criminal Tribes Act. It cannot be clearly and definitely ascertained as to how these tribes grew and took up to criminal activities as their profession. At one time it was thought on the basis of the then prevalent Dr. Lombroso's theory of "Inborn Criminality" that they were congenital criminals. But later, anthropological and serological tests have pointed to the fact that the members of the so called criminal tribes did not differ either in blood grouping or in anthropometrical measurements from the other non-criminal tribes and castes. The causes that were generally responsible for the criminal tendencies of these unfortunate people were purely socio-economic and could be easily ascertained. The Koravars for example had no fixed place of abode nor any settled profession and owned no lands. They used to roam about the whole country with their families, goods and animal. They practised quackery or astrology, sold herbs and forest produce or demonstrated monkeys and some of them also did some sort of miscellaneous work or other in which the villagers were interested. These professions did not yield enough returns and supplement their income, menfolk committed crimes. Psychologically these tribes wanted quick returns and they could not cultivate land and wait for months together to see their crops ripen. On the other hand crime appeared to pay them quick returns. Whatever might be the causes of their anti-social behaviour in the past, there is an imminent need to rehabilitate them, reform their habits and recover them as worthy members of a civilised society. For this purpose, efforts were made during the British rule. But the policy of the British Government in the administration of the Criminal Tribes Act had been more to suppress the turbulent elements among the tribe than to encourage them to settle on land and to provide them with the means of earning an honest livelihood. However, after Independence, the Criminal Tribes Act of 1924 was repealed and the Criminal Tribes (Madras Repeal) Act, 1942, came into force on 2nd September 1948 and restored to them their honour and self-respect. They are no longer subjected to humiliating restrictions regarding night surveillance on their movements. They are also no longer being notified as a criminal tribe or being confined to any settlement with their families. Their welfare has become the primary responsibility of the State. The members of the ex-criminal tribes of the District are extremely poor. They do not own any land of their own nor have any profession. The welfare works for the criminal tribes are entrusted to the Department of Harijan Welfare in the District. After the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in 1948 special steps are being taken for the social and educational development of the members of these tribes. Under the Second Five-Year Plan, it was proposed to open 25 new schools in addition to the five schools already existing for the benefit of 1,50,000 Maravars of the District. The Plan also provided for the opening of five boarding homes in addition to the one boarding home already opened for Maravars and Vaduvar-

patti Koravars, 55 reading rooms and libraries and 8 women welfare centres, besides the maintenance of 5 reading rooms and libraries already existing<sup>1</sup>.

#### HILLTRIBES.

*The Paliyans* :—The population of the District also include the Paliyans a nomadic tribe, who for the most part move in small parties through the jungle-clad gorges that fringe the hilly regions of Srivilliputtur. They are ethnologically an important tribe of the District. They speak Tamil with a peculiar intonation which renders it scarcely intelligible.

The typical Paliyans of both the sexes are below the average height of the natives of the plains and have very curly (not wooly) hair. Their skin is not black in colour. Alliances with Koravars and others seem to be common and many now have quite a straight hair. The expression of the face is intelligent and with a few exception they look healthy, but their general appearance is filthy as they seem neither to bathe their bodies nor wash their clothes<sup>2</sup>.

Their food consists of roots (the wild yam), honey and the flesh of animals and birds. They also eat various grains when they can get them either from the forest contractors or by going down to the plains themselves. They exchange honey, roots, skins, etc., for their requirements. They do not eat beaf. They obtain game by means of traps and they also catch birds with bird-lime but they do not hunt as they have no weapons. They do not use bows and arrows nor even blow pipes. They own no immovable property and their only possessions are sickles and burnt sticks which are used for digging up roots and are called *Partom Kombu*<sup>3</sup>.

Much patience and cunning are required in their hunting methods. One of their devices used for big game, (e.g.), against the sambar (deer), or against the bear, consists of digging pitfalls carefully covered up with twigs and leaves. On the animal being, entrapped it is dispatched with clubs or the *aruval* (sickle). Another mean consists in arranging a heap of big stones on a kind of platform, one end of which is made to rest on the higher ground, the other skilfully equipoised by a stick resting on a fork, where it remains fixed by means of strong twine so disposed that the least movement makes the lever-like stick on the fork fly-off, while the platform and the stones come rapidly down with a crash. The string which secures the lever is so arranged as to unloose itself at the least touch and the intended victim can hardly taste the food that serves for bait without bringing the platform with all its weight down upon itself. Similar traps, but on a smaller

1. Source : Second Five Year Plan, Ramanathapuram District.

2. Census of India 1931 Report, page 370.

3. Census of India 1931 Report, page 370.

scale, are used to catch smaller animals like hares, wild fowls, etc. The first drops of blood of any animal the Paliyans kill are offered to their God. The meat obtained there from must be divided between all the families of the settlement. One of their methods for procuring fish consists in throwing the leaves of a creeper called in Tamil *Karungakadi*, after rubbing them into the water. Soon the fish is seen floating on the surface. Rough fashioned hooks are also used. When not engaged on some expedition, or not working for hire, the Paliyans at times, occupy themselves in the fabrication of small bird-cages or in weaving a rough kind of mat or in basket making<sup>1</sup>.

They make fire by means of two sticks, by knocking two stones together or by a flint and steel. They shave the front of their head (in the Hindu fashion) by means of broken glass and with the aid of salt. The face is also sometimes shaved.

They are in a habit of signalling to each other in the jungle by different intonations of a cry much resembling 'coo-ee' to signify danger, pleasure, etc. They of course have no education, but they speak Tamil which is quite intelligible and very fluent.

Honey plays a very important part in the lives of the Paliyans. Very largely used as a food, no ceremony can be performed without it. It is offered as a gift together with the wild yam to important persons and most of their bartering with the people of the plains is done with it.

Their customs, manners and beliefs differ fundamentally from those of the men of the plains. They are as a rule shy and timid but their confidence can be gained easily if well treated. Their women disappear in the jungle like wild animals. The men wear filthy loin cloth only, but the women are fully clothed in dirty saris. There seem to be no birth ceremonies among them besides purification. There are no midwives. The newborn baby is plunged into the nearest stream for its first bath and the mother also bathes immediately after her confinement and washes her cloth<sup>2</sup>.

*Religion of the Paliyans*:—Their religion consists of worshipping *Palichi Ammal* (Palichi, female of Paliyan; Amma—a honorific). They have no knowledge of God or Goddess. At rare intervals the whole community worships together this Goddess, but each family worships her separately more often. A few stones are set up in a row, the number being immaterial though generally from one to seven under a rock or tree. The stones are usually smooth pebbles from a stream. Each stone is painted with a figure to represent a man (or a woman) with vermilion paste. They cannot say whether it is a man or woman. The worship consists of the offering of honey and some roots of wild yam. They then prostrate themselves on the ground before

1. Dr. E. Thurston "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" Volume V, page 464-65,

2. Census of India. 1937.

the stones and utter prayers for protection from wild beasts and evil spirits. The women also join and pray. The chief performer of the worship is generally an elderly man who is called the Thevaradi (literally, the dancer of the God). He works himself up to a state of ecstasy and falls into a trance. 'The 'Sattan' another elderly man, then acting as an interpreter puts him questions about the future welfare of the community or of an individual and the Thevaradi, who is supposed to be inspired by the Goddess answers. Apart from the above form of congregational worship, they also pray privately the *Palichiammal* for protection against danger of any kind in the jungle. This is done inwardly and without any outward ceremony. The offices of Thevaradi and Sattan are hereditary. They have no permanent temples and the locality where the community worships, is chosen according to convenience and is not always the same.

As regards the choice of marriage the Paliyans have only two alternatives. Marriages are permitted between a man and his maternal uncle's daughter or sister's daughter. All other marriages among relations are prohibited. Marriage always takes place soon after puberty and never before. But it is common for a girl to reside in the house of her future husband for sometime before puberty, if he is her maternal uncle.

Regarding their marriage customs the Census Report of 1931 gives the following account : "As a rule, marriages are arranged for the young people by the elders of a family. Bride prices are not paid, but the bride receives trifling presents from her relations such as roots, honey, beads, etc., when the time comes for her to be taken to her husband's dwelling. The actual ceremony of marriage consists in the tying of a string of black beads round the neck of the bride and the presentation of a cloth to her, by the bridegroom. The bride also ties a similar string of beads round the neck of the bridegroom. The woman wears hers permanently, if she likes, but it is not imperative. The man usually discards his after the eighth day, as he is too shy to wear it longer. He is also presented with a new cloth by his father."

Their only amusement seems to be dancing in which both sexes indulge, simultaneously, but in separate groups. It is very similar to the dancing of other castes in the plains. There seems to be different kinds of steps. They go round in a circle clapping hands or wearing a cloth, occasionally uttering low cries. The dancing is accompanied with drums and primitive forms of music played on reed-pipes, which are not very shrill.

The dead are always buried. The body is not washed or prepared in any way and is kept in the hut or cave where the death occurred untill the time of burial. Ornaments if any, are removed, but not the clothing. The body is placed in the grave, which is only breast deep in a recumbent position on its back. All are

bound to attend it especially, the near relations. The body in the meantime is left unburied eventhough it becomes offensive<sup>1</sup>. Then the corpse is buried.

### THE MUSLIMS.

The Muslims form the second major community of the District. The general structure, customs, manners and religious beliefs of the Muslims of the District do not differ materially from those of their co-religionists in other parts of the State. Their religion, Islam, was propounded by Prophet Mohammed (570-632 A.D.), who preached against idolatry and enjoined the people to worship the one True God. He dictated a book of injunctions and expositions, known as the *Koran*, which he declared was communicated to him from God. The *Koran* is the sacred book of religion for the Muslims. The Muslims of this District are mostly of Dravidian origin but a few are descendants of Pathan and Moghul immigrants and present the unmistakable types of features found in those races in Upper India. Very orthodox Muslims are not infrequently shocked by some of the departures from the stern creed. It is probably because Islam in South India is less of an exotic type; and is more essentially Indian drawing some in spiration at least from the locality. The Muslims in the District observe the five principal acts enjoined in the *Koran*. They are: (1) The recital of *Kalima* or the short confession of faith—"There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the apostle of God", (2) *Sulat*, the five prescribed daily periods of prayer and preparatory purification, (3) *Roza*, the thirty days fast of *Ramzan*, (4) *Zakat* Legal alms and (5) *Haj* or pilgrimage to Mecca. There are also secondary duties such as obedience to parents, circumcision etc.

The days of mourning in the first month of the Muhammadan year in commemoration of the martyrdom of Ali and his two sons, are observed by the Muslims of the District. All pious Muslims abstain from food and drink from sun rise to sun set in the 9th of month Muhammadan year i.e. *Ramzan*. The prophet used to say of this month that "in it the gates of paradise are open, the gates of hell are shut and the devils are chained by the leg". On the day of *Id-ul-fitr* (the feast of the breaking of the fast), which is the first day of the month following the *Ramzan*, the people put on their best clothes and distribute alms. *Bakrid* the feast of sacrifice is also observed by them with fervour.

The Muslims being the second major community in the District belong to one or other of the classes or tribes known as *Pathan*, *Syyed*, *Sheiks* and *Labbais*. Pathans claim Afghan descent while Syyeds are reputed to be descended from the Prophet and

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1. Census of India, 1931, page 270.



hence held in high esteem. The Labbais are the offspring of Arab traders. They speak Tamil and are generally known as *Marakayars*, or *Ravuthars*<sup>1</sup>.

The Muslims of the District are the descendants of the early colonists from Arabia. They first settled along the sea coasts, chiefly in Kilakkarai, Devipatnam, Mandapam, Pamban and other places which enabled them to trade freely with Ceylon and gradually extend their colonies into the interior of the District. They also gradually adopted the Tamil language. In the absence of all restraint, they on their first settlement took women of the lowest classes as both wives and concubines and also admitted into their households and made members of their own families young boys and girls of the same class who were either parted with for a consideration or were abandoned by their relations during the prevalence of famines and general distress. And the resulting cross-bred race with free concubinage and widow remarriage rapidly multiplied. This class includes probably also an admixture of Hindus circumcised by force or inducement<sup>2</sup>.

*The Labbais*:—The Labbais are summed up in the Madras Census Report, 1901 as being “a Mussalman caste of partly Tamil origin, the members of which are traders”. They are thrifty, industrious and enterprising plucky mariners and expert traders. In the Census Report 1891, they are described as “a mixed class, of Muhammadans, consisting partly of compulsory converts to Islam made by the early Muhammadan invaders and Tippu Sultan”.

As regards their origin, Colonel Wilks, writes as follows<sup>3</sup> : “About the end of the first century of the *Hejirah*, or the early part of the 8th Century A.D., Hijaj Ben Ousaff, Governor of Irak, a monster abhorred for his cruelties even among Mussalmans, drove some persons of the house of Hashem to the desperate resolution of abandoning for ever their native country. Some of them landed on that part of the western coast of India called Concan, the others to the eastward of Cape Comorin. The descendants of the former are Navaiyats and of the latter are the Labbais, a name probably given to them by natives from that Arabic particle (a modification of Labbaik) corresponding with the English ‘Here I am’ indicating attention on being spoken to (i.e. the response of the servant to the call of his master)”. “A further explanation of the name is that the Labbais were originally few in number and were often oppressed by other Muhammadans and Hindus, to whom they cried *labbers* or we are your servants”. Another account says that they are the descendants of the Arabs who in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, came to India for trade. These Arabs were persecuted by the Moghuls, and they then returned to their country

1. Source : Pudukkottai Manual by Venkatarama Iyyar.

2. Manual of Ramnad —page 38.

3. Historical sketches of South India, Mysore, 1810—17.

leaving behind their children born of Indian women. The word *Labbai* seems to be of recent origin, for in the *Tamil Lexicon*, this caste is usually known as Sonagan, i.e., a native of Sonagam (Arabia) and this name is common at the present day.

Most of the Labbais are traders. Some are engaged in weaving mats, and others in diving at the pearl and chank fisheries of the Gulf of Manar. They speak Tamil at home and from their ranks have arisen some Tamil poets of repute<sup>1</sup>. There is still some trade connection between Kilakkarai and the ports of Burma and Straits Settlements. It is carried on entirely by Muhammadans in native sailing vessels and large proportion of the Muhammadans<sup>2</sup> of Kilakkarai have visited Penang and Singapore.

Their customs, manners and beliefs are similar to those of their brethren followers elsewhere but of course with some regional influences and inspirations. They are orthodox Muslims.

*The Marakayars* :—The Marakayars are described in the Madras Census Report of 1901 as a Tamil speaking Muslim tribe who are usually traders. They seem to be distinct from the Labbais in several respects. The Marakayars are largely big traders with other countries such as Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, and they own most of the native coasting crafts.

The word *Marakayar* is usually derived from the Arab, *Meekab*, a boat. The story goes that, when the first immigrants of this class landed on the Indian shore, they were naturally asked who they were and whence they came. In answer they pointed to their boats and pronounced the word *Marakab* and they became in consequence known to the Hindus as *Marakayars* or the people of the *Marakab*. According to another tradition the word *Marakayar* is derived from the words '*Marakalam*' which means boat and '*rayars*' which means king. Since these people were successful sea-traders, they were called as *Marakaarayars* and later the word got corrupted as Marakayar.

Thurston finds a curious custom among the Marakayars during the marriage ceremony. "On the third or fourth day a ceremony called *Paparakolam*, is performed. The bride is dressed like a Brahmin woman, and holds a brass vessel in one hand, and a stick in the other. Approaching the bridegroom, she strikes him gently and says "Did not I give you butter-milk and curds? Pay me for them?" The bridegroom then places a few tamarind seeds in the brass vessels, but the bride objects to this and demands money, accompanying the demand with strokes of the stick. The man then places copper, silver and gold coins in the vessels and the bride retires in triumph to her chamber."

Their religious beliefs and customs are in conformity with their brethren followers of other districts in the State.

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1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India* by E. Thurston, page 200.

## CHRISTIANS.

Numerically, the Christian community forms the third major religious group in the District. Christianity is one of the great-religions of the world. The religion owes its rise to Jesus of Nazareth in ancient Galilee (Palastin). It is the out growth of the life and work of Jesus Christ, and centres around his personality<sup>1</sup>.

The Christian Movement in its early stages was among the Jews, who in the second quarter of the Christian era accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, that is as the one whom God had empowered by His resident spirit to become the Saviour of His people and the establisher of His Kingdom. The Christian Movement however, soon expanded among non-Jewish peoples and developed into an independent and well founded religion. Later in 1054 A.D., due to differences of opinion, the Christians fell into two groups—The Greek Catholics and the Roman Catholics. Later in the 16th century, the reformist movement gave rise to another group—The Protestants. The Protestant group later split into many smaller groups<sup>2</sup>. To all bodies, *the Holy Bible* is of primary importance. All creeds and confessions of faith in Christianity claim to be exposition of its contents.

Among the Christians, the Catholics owing allegiance to the Pope constitute the major group. In South India, Christianity was first introduced on the west coast from relatively early times. It was done by Saint Thomas, one of the disciples of the Christ. The Portuguese put forth much effort in the sixteenth century to bring about mass conversions and later numerous missionary bodies, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, made sustained efforts at winning over Indians to their faith, employing education and medical care as the means of developing contacts with the people.

In the succeeding paragraphs the development of the Christian religion in the District is briefly traced : The regions of Ramathapuram and Madurai had been the fertile fields for the Christian Missionary activity from 1600 A.D.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION.

The Roman Catholic Mission is by far the oldest in the District dating as far back as the sixteenth century. It appears from a letter of Father Martin dated 1st January, 1700, that some of the oldest churches of this Mission were established during the supremacy of the Portuguese over India at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Most of the lowest classes of Hindus, chiefly living along the sea coast, are converts to this faith. Closely associated with

1. Mathews, S. and Smith G. B. A. Dictionary of Religion and Ethics, London' 1921.

2. Source : Kalai Kalanjiam, Madras, 1956, Volume III, page 720.

the Portuguese, and generally following Portuguese customs, the Parava Christians of the fishery coast, however, exercised hardly any influence on the people in the neighbouring kingdom of Marava of Ramanathapuram. Towards the end of the century, there were to be found Christians in certain villages of Southern Marava country like Muthupettai and Periapattam ; but they were probably emigrants from the Fishery Coast.

It was only with the arrival of Fr. *Antony Proenza SJ* in 1663 in the interior of the Marava territory that the Maravars began to become Christians. Fr. Proenza was one of the followers of Fr. Robert de Nobili who in 1606 had founded the Madurai Mission. The missionaries of the Madurai Mission, unlike those of the Fishery Coast, had adopted Indian customs and taken Indian names. So, when Fr. Proenza, known as Paramanandasamy appeared among the Maravars in the garb of an Indian sanyasi, observing scrupulously their social customs and speaking fluently their language, they welcomed him enthusiastically.

The ruler of Marava, Ragunatha Tirumalai Sethupathi (1642-72) following the example of Tirumalai Naik of Madurai allowed Fr. Proenza to preach the Gospel freely in his Kingdom also. Soon there were some 250 Christians. Remarkable among these were the two brothers Mudiappan, who was credited with supernatural powers, and Arulappan, who cured the Sethupathi of a dangerous tumour and a certain army captain. Gladly therefore did Ragunatha allow the Christians to build a church at a place called Salvalatur (not so far identified).

Political unrest which followed badly affected the Christian community of Marava at its very birth. Civil war broke out in the kingdom. Three Sethupathis appeared on the throne in quick succession. The third of these, *Ragunatha Theva* better known as *Kilavan* (1674-1710) was hostile to the Christians. The small Christian community, with no priest to minister to them regularly, were occasionally visited by some missionary from across the frontier (against the orders of the Sethupathi), and sometimes a few of them would cross the frontier to go to the nearest mission centre and receive the sacraments from the priests.

The Kilavan's titles to the throne seem to have been rather dubious ; a reason more for him to hold the sceptre with a firm hand. Firmness, courage and energy he had in abundance and with those qualities he could combine also an unscrupulous ruthlessness. After he had got rid of all his rivals, he thought his position was threatened by a foreign missionary, who had then begun preaching in his kingdom. The missionary's name was Fr. *John De Britto* or *Arulanandaswamy*. While doing missionary work in the Thanjavur Kingdom, he had become acquainted with those Christians, who at great risk came all the way from the Marava country to receive the sacraments. Disregarding the warning of

his fellow-missionaries, he decided to visit the forbidden land of the Sethupathi. He entered the Marava country in May, 1686. He had been there for a little over two months, comforting and encouraging the harassed Christians, and also preaching to non-Christians, when he was arrested, tortured and imprisoned successively at Kalaiyarkoil, Pagani and Ramanathapuram. The Sethupathi had him brought before him in August, 1686, and after severely reprimanding him set him free, with the injunction never to set foot again in his kingdom. But after five years John de Britto was back to the Marava country and began to preach with redoubled zeal. In the following year he could write to his brother in Portugal that many thousands had become Christians, among whom were also "friends and relatives of the Rajah". In January, 1693, he baptized a certain prince Thadia Theva. Among the prince's several wives whom he had to put away on becoming a Christian was a niece of the Sethupathi. The conversion of the prince and the disgrace of his niece infuriated the Kilavan, who promptly had John de Britto arrested, sentenced to death and executed at Oriur on 4th February 1693. John de Britto, venerated as St. John de Britto is known as the Apostle of Marava.

*Fr. Francisco Laynes*, who succeeded John de Britto in the care of the Christians of Marava, was careful not to cross the frontier. But his prudence did not prevent his being arrested in 1704 by a band of the Sethupathi's men, within the territory of the kingdom of Thanjavur. With four of his disciples, he was brought to the Sethupathi's Court and sentenced to death. However, at the intervention of the Rajah of Thanjavur the missionary and his companions were released.

The next missionary who attended to the Marava Christians was Fr. Borghese, who was succeeded after a short time by Fr. Pierre Martin. Though the Sethupathi's ban against the missionaries was not yet withdrawn, Fr. Martin made extensive tour of the land and found that there were no fewer than 20,000 Catholics in the Marava country. Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi (1711-1725), who succeeded the Kilavan, was at first well-disposed towards the Christians. He allowed Fr. Martin to build churches. And in fact, the missionary soon built a beautiful church at Ponnellikottai (near Saruguni). During a brief absence of the missionary, the Christians, exhilarated by the passing sunshine of royal favour, began to ridicule their Hindu neighbours. Naturally, the Sethupathi made them pay for their impudence. Fr. Martin, on his return, was arrested, and imprisoned for two months and was banished from the Marava country.

Fr. Capelli, a young Italian missionary, popularly known as Pothagarsamy, was then put in charge of the Christian community of Marava. His superiors, however, did not allow him to go over to the territory of the Sethupathi. All he could do was to travel

up and down along the frontier, consoling and encouraging the Christians who came to him. He died in 1715. His tomb at Kalugumalai, a village near Madurai is still held in veneration.

In 1730, Katta Thevar acceded as Sethupathi. While he had been in banishment during the reign of his predecessor, he had made the acquaintance of Fr. Charles Bertholdi a venerable Italian missionary, who spoke to him words of hope and comfort. Now that he was on the throne, he invited the missionary to Ramanathapuram. Among the favours he granted him was the permission to build a church at Orius (where John de Britto had been martyred), and contributed generously towards its construction. Among those whom Fr. Bertholdi received into the Church was the daughter of Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi.

*Fr. James De. Rossi (Sinna Savariar)* was the first missionary to reside permanently in the Marava Country, where he laboured for 38 years (1736-74), with his headquarters at Sarugani. He wrote several Tamil books, distinguished for their simplicity, clarity and gripping attractiveness for the instruction of Christians.

In the meantime, in 1759, an anti-Catholic and anti-Jesuit Government in Portugal expelled all the Jesuits from the Portuguese dominions in India and in 1774, Pope Clement XIV, yielding to political pressures, suppressed the Society of Jesus. These events made it impossible for the Madurai Mission (of which Marava was a part), which had all along been manned by Jesuits to get new missionaries. The few that remained, however, continued to work in the Mission till their death.

During the following fifty or sixty years when the Marava Christians were left with practically no pastors to look after them, not a few of them seem to have abandoned their faith. At the same time, however, the number of Catholics in Marava increased considerably because of the immigration of Udayars from the north of *Cauvery*. A large section of these immigrants were Catholics, and it is their descendants that to day form the large and more influential portion of the Catholic population of the Ramanathapuram District.

In 1838, a few years after the Society of Jesus had been re-established by the Pope, four Jesuits, sent by the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome, came to the Madurai Mission. The arrival of these missionaries, marked the beginning of what is known as the 'New Madurai Mission' (as distinguished from the "Old Madurai Mission", started by Robert de Nobili in 1606).

The new missionaries founded many of the churches in Madurai and the Marava country occupied by priests depending on the Portuguese authorities in Goa. These priests, called 'Padroado' priests (from the Portuguese word 'Padroado' meaning 'Patronage'), through lack of proper formation and guidance, had done little for the spiritual welfare of the faithful. But when the new

missionaries sent by Rome arrived, the Padroado priests refused to acknowledge them or to yield to them the Churches and Christian communities attached to them, on the plea that the new missionaries were infringing the patronage rights enjoyed by Portugal. This resulted in a long drawn out rivalry and struggle for jurisdiction between the padroado priests supported by Portugal and the new missionaries sent by the authorities in Rome. And it contributed considerably to the growth of that quarrelsome and factious spirit which often exists even today among the Christians of the same village.

In the midst of the jurisdiction struggle and other difficulties, however, the new missionaries devoted themselves to the work of evangelization; and they were followed by many more valiant and devoted workers, so that the Church registered a steady progress. In 1846, the Madurai Mission was made the Vicariate Apostolic of Madurai.

In 1886, the jurisdiction dispute was definitely settled by an agreement between the Pope and the Portuguese Government; and the Madurai Mission (including the present districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapalli and parts of the Thanjavur) was erected into the Diocese of Trichinopoly. At that time in the territory of the Ramanathapuram District there were about 37,000 Catholics; and to attend to their spiritual needs, there were 14 missionaries residing in nine important stations. In 1938 the Diocese was divided a second time (it had been divided once before in 1923, when the Diocese of Tuticorin consisting of a large part of the District of Tirunelveli was formed), and the new Diocese of Madurai was constituted. In 1958, Madurai was made an Archdiocese. The present Archdiocese of Madurai includes the whole of the Ramanathapuram District, and parts of the Madurai and Tirunelveli districts.

According to the ecclesiastical census of 1960, there were in the Ramanathapuram District 107,793 Catholics distributed among 39 parishes with resident priests. With the growth of the Catholic Church, there has been also an increase in the number of centres of worship. The following may be mentioned as being the most important among them.

*Oriur*:—In this place, made sacred by the martyrdom of the 'Apostle of Marava', three shrines have been erected. The first in honour of Holy Mary's Nativity was built by Fr. de Rossi (*Sinna Savariar*). The second, dedicated to John de Britto was raised after he was proclaimed a martyr in 1853. The third, a much larger and beautiful edifice commemorates the canonization of John de Britto in 1947. Thousands of pilgrims flock to Oriur throughout the year, and particularly on the feast days of 4th February and 8th September.

**Suranam :—**Here is one of the most beautiful churches in the District, built between 1858 and 1873, and dedicated to the Apostle St. James. The feast celebrated on 25th July attracts a large number of pilgrims, both Christians and non-Christians.

**Verkadu :—**(Pamban Island) : The dedicated to St. James at this place is one of the oldest churches in the Ramanathapuram District. There are references in documents dating from 1715, to miracles performed at the shrine. The feast celebrated with large concourse of people is on the 25th of July every year.

**Kokurani (near Calladithidal) :—**Here there is a small but ancient church, built by the Portuguese, and dedicated to the Roman martyr, St. Sebastian, who is specially invoked as Protector against epidemics and famines. The feast is celebrated in February with great pomp, and attracts thousands of Christians and non-Christians.

**Honmeni (ten miles west of Sattur) :—**At this place there is a very old shrine. It is a popular pilgrim centre. The church is dedicated to St. Ignatius.

**Idaikattur :—**This place has the most artistic church in the whole of the Ramanathapuram District, and is dedicated to the sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a masterpiece of pure Gothic architecture. It was built by Fr. Celle between 1884 and 1894 and was financed entirely by an English Catholic lady.

Besides these shrines properly so-called, we may mention as centres of pilgrimage also the tombs of three holy missionaries, viz., Fr. Capelli (Pothagarsami), at Kalugumalai, near Madurai, Fr. de Rossi (*Sinna Savariar*), at Sarugani, and Fr. Alexander Martin (*Visuvasanathar*), at Rajakembiram.

Mention may also be made of the religious plays called 'Paschul', representing the life and particularly the death and resurrection of Christ, enacted at certain place like Ideikattur, Iradayakoil, Kokurani and Karankadu once a year. These plays attract large crowds though from the dramatic and artistic points of view they leave much to be desired.

**Inter-caste Relations :—**The traditional caste system had its stronghold in the District throughout the ages before Independence and it was observed with rigidity. However in recent decades, the rigidity of caste barriers has abated considerably and caste as an institution has lost much of its significance. Several factors have accelerated this process of social change. The rapid spread of western education, increasing migration of population from rural to urban areas, and the rapid expansion of the means of communications facilitating constant contacts between the towns and villages have all gone a long way in liquidating the rigours of the caste system. And those who were imbued with the spirit of social and religious reforms have engaged in



a persistent campaign to break down the caste barriers in the Hindu society. As regards inter-caste relationships in the District with the exception of some occasional communal flare ups there is social harmony in the District. The reasons for most of those flare ups were more economic than communal. The general social movements, intercourse and relationships between the different castes in the District are in peaceful amity and sustained cordiality. The divergent religious followers in the District also live in peaceful accord. Any observer to the District will be nonplussed to note that, in spite of the fundamental differences that exist between the various religious communities, the people belonging to the divergent theological orders drink at one common fountain of culture, tradition and philosophy.

### SOCIAL LIFE.

*Property And Inheritance* :—The system of inheritance and succession that is widely prevalent among the Hindus is the Patrilineal System. However, the mixed system of patriarchal and matriarchal inheritance is not out of existence in the District. Among the Nattukottai Chettians, for example, the property of a woman (jewel, vessels, investments, etc.) on her death goes to her daughters. As among the other Hindu castes, the eldest son may retain the personal effects of his father and with the consent of his brothers may retain his house. But the value thereof is deducted from his share in the property<sup>1</sup>. Among the Kallars and Maravars lineage is traced only through the male members and the properties of the deceased naturally go to the sons. Among the Hindu Nadars who are governed by the *Mithakshara* system of Hindu Law, the form of succession is strictly patrilineal. Among the non-Hindu communities, the system of inheritance is patrilineal. The Christians of the District are patrilineal as elsewhere in the State. As for the Muslims, it may be noted that unlike the Mappilas, who are mostly matrilineal, the Muslims of the Ramanathapuram District are mostly patrilineal.

*The Joint Family System* :—The unique feature of the Hindu society is the joint family system. This system arrested many of the antisocial elements in the society. The family was well integrated, homogeneous and stable, where all the pleasures and pains were shared by all the members and many incidences of mental derangements and suicides were arrested. Moreover the credit of a member went to the honour of the family. Economically also the system had much benefits. The income of all persons of the family were added to the general pool of the family and expenditure was met from that. This left savings in the family. Moreover the command of the elders were unquestionable in the family. But due to the influence of modern ideas, industrialisation and

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1. Thurston, E. Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Volume V, page 251.

the emancipation of women, this system is gradually disintegrating in the District. As enumerated at the Census of 1951, the average inmates of a family is 5.5 in the urban areas. In rural areas the figures still go down to 4.7 persons. This shows that this social institution is gradually disintegrating in the District. Moreover, the gradual industrialisation in places like Sattur, Sivakasi, Rajapalayam, Aruppukkottai and Virudhunagar has attracted many people from the rural areas which have resulted in the splitting up of the joint family system. Modern education has also made this change. The emancipation of women, and their employment in industries and in schools have aggravated the process of decline of this system.

### MARRIAGE AND MORALS.

#### *Monogamy and Polygamy :*

Among all the castes and communities of the District, marriage is considered as the most important ceremony, but the details vary from community to community and caste to caste. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 which was codified, reformed the law relating to Hindu marriage all over India. It has made monogamy both general and compulsory among all classes of Hindus. However, polygamy was not completely out of existence in the District. At one time, the members of the higher castes like the zamindars who had their caste wives used to have their *Sambandham* with women of other castes, particularly Agamudiyars. The legal responsibility of maintaining the wife and children later imposed by law, however, made their exogamous marriages less attractive to the higher castes. At present almost all castes and communities of the Hindus follow monogamy as a rule, but the possibility of a few isolated cases of the practice of polygamy among Hindus here and there cannot be entirely ruled out. For the Muslims, polygamy is not prohibited by law or custom. However, public opinion has always discouraged the perpetuation of the practice. Among the Christians, polygamy is prohibited both by law and religion.

#### *Traditional restrictions on marriage alliances :*

All castes and communities of the District observe certain marriage taboos. It has been the general practice for the members of a caste or community to marry from within the same caste or community. Inter-marriage with a daughter of a maternal uncle or paternal aunt is not only very much prevalent but is even claimed as a matter of right on either side in some classes. Marriage with a sister's daughter is also not uncommon.

"The Kondayamkottai Maravars", F. Fawcett writes<sup>1</sup>, "are divided into six sub-tribes or, as they call them 'trees'. Each 'tree' or *Kottu*, is divided into three 'Kilais' or 'branches'. Those of the 'Kilais' belonging to the same 'tree' or 'Kottu' are never allowed to inter-marry. A man or women must marry with one of a 'Kilai' belonging to another 'tree' than his own, his or her own being that of his or her mother, and not of the father." A girl of the Kondayamkottai Maravars can never marry her mother's brother.

Among the Nattukkottai Chettiars every boy is said to have the inviolable right to claim the hand of his paternal aunt's daughter.

Among the Rajus of Rajapalayam, the choice of the bride is governed by the inexorable law of exogamy. They have four *gothras* named after *rishis*, viz., Dhananjaya, Kasyapa, Kaundinya and Vasishta. A man is prohibited from marrying a woman of his own *gothra*. He can only marry a woman of a different *gothra*.

#### *Marriage customs and rituals ;*

Marriage customs, rituals and ceremonies differ from caste to caste and community to community in the District. There are also some regional influences in those practices. An elaborate description of marriage customs and ceremonies prevailing among each of the communities in the District is not possible. However, those of a few important communities may be described, in order to convey a broad picture of the marriage customs prevalent among the people of the District.

Among the Maravars, the marriage is arranged by the principal members of the family. After a marriage has been agreed to by the elder members of the two families, a few of the relations of the intended bridegroom go to the house of the bride, and there without the consent of the bridegroom and the bride tie upon her neck the *tali*, while conch shells are loudly blown outside. After this they escort the bride to the house of the bridegroom who usually, but not necessarily awaits their coming. A feast is then given to the friends of both the parties, which lasts for a few days according to the means of the giver. Processions are also conducted through the town, a cocoanut is broken before Lord *Vigneswara*, and certain ceremonies are performed under a marriage *pandal* or booth. If, the parties are too poor to afford all these rites and entertainments, the tying of the *tali* alone is performed at first, and the man and the woman begin to cohabit forthwith; but at sometime the other ceremonies must certainly be performed<sup>2</sup>.

1. Journal of Anthrop. Inst., XXXIII, 1903.

2. Madura Manual, by Nelson, page 40.

As regards the marriage customs and rituals, there is not much of difference between the Kallars and the Maravars.

The marriage custom among the poorer Agamudaiyars, is very simple. The sister of the bridegroom proceeds to the home of the bride on an auspicious day followed by a few females carrying a woman's cloth, a few jewels, flowers, etc. The bride is seated close to a wall, facing east. She is dressed up in the cloth which has been brought and is seated on a plank. Betel leaves, areca nuts and flowers are presented to her by the bridegroom's sister, and then she puts them in her lap. A turmeric-dyed string of garland is then placed round the bride's neck by the bridegroom's sister, while the conch shell is blown. On the same day the bride is conducted to the home of the bridegroom and a feast is held<sup>1</sup>. Among the Kallars, when the wedding takes place, the sister of the bridegroom usually goes to the house of the parents of the bride and presents them with twenty-one coins and a cloth and at the same time, ties a horse hair thread or a cotton thread attached to which is a triangular ornament (*tali*), round the bride's neck. She then brings the bride and her relations to the house of the bridegroom and gives them a feast. After this, the ceremony of exchange between the bride and the bridegroom of *Vallari thadis* or boomerangs was formerly used to be performed, but nowadays this ceremony is rarely performed. A feast is then given in the bride's house and the bride is presented by her parents with a small quantity of rice and a hen. She then goes with her husband to his house<sup>2</sup>.

Among the Nattukkottai Chettiars, the marriage ceremony commences with the "giving of gold for the bride's neck". On an auspicious day, the bridegroom's party gives a gold coin to a goldsmith who beats it into a thin sheet. On the first day of the marriage rites, a feast is given to the bridegroom's family and the female ancestors are worshipped. On the following day, the presentation of the dowry takes place. The presents, which are often of considerable value are laid out for inspection and an inventory of them is made. On the third day, garlands are received from the temples to which the bride and bridegroom belong. The bride's party go to the house of the bridegroom, taking on a tray a silk handkerchief and cloth, and fifty rupees in a silver vessel, betel, etc. These are presented to the bridegroom. This ceremony is called *Mappillai-ariyappodhal* or getting to know the son-in-law. The next item of the programme is *Nalkurithal* or fixing the day of marriage. The bridegroom's party proceeds to the house of the bride, taking with them two cocoanuts wrapped up in a blanket, betel, turmeric, etc., as presents. The bride is bathed and decorated and '*Purangalithal*' is proceeded with. She stands by the side of her grandmother and a Brahmin *puohit*, taking up a few leafy margosa twigs, touches the

1. Castes and Tribes of Southern India by E. Thurston, page 9.

Madras District Gazetteers—Madurai by Dr. B. S. Baliga, page 117.

girls' shoulders, head and knees with them and throws them away. Her glass bead-necklace is then removed. At the *uppu-eduthal* (salt-carrying) ceremony, the bridegroom's party carries a basket containing salt, a bundle containing nine kinds of grains and a palmyra scroll for writing the marriage contract on, to the bride's house. The sacred fire is lighted and *homam* is performed by the Brahmin *Purohit*. An old man, who has had a number of children and belongs to a temple other than that of the bride, and the bridegroom's sister, then tie the *tali* string round her neck. Immediately after the *tali* has been tied, the marriage contract (*Isagudimanam*) is written.

Among the Telugu speaking communities, the marriage custom varies from caste to caste. Among the Tottiyars, otherwise known as Kambattar or Kambalattar Nayaks, the marriages are arranged by parents. Among the Yerrakolas, on the wedding day the bride and the bridegroom are seated on a plank on the marriage dais and milk is sprinkled over them by the people. A few hours later, the bridegroom takes his seat in the *Pandal* where the bride is brought in the arms of her maternal uncle. The Mettu Nayakar or the headman then links together the little fingers of the contracting couple and tells them to exchange rings. This is the binding portion of the ceremony and no *bottu (tali)* is tied round the bride's neck. At a wedding among Vekkiliyars, two huts are constructed in an open space outside the village, in front of which a *pandal* is erected, roofed with leafy twigs of the *punga* tree. On the following day, the bride and the bridegroom are conducted to the huts. They then worship the ancestral heroes who are represented by new cloths folded and placed on a tray. The bridegroom's sister next ties the *hootu (tali)* on the bride's neck inside her hut in front of which *cambu* is scattered<sup>1</sup>.

Among the Rajus of Rajapalayam, the marriage function takes place invariably at night, a feature, which is a relic of the *purdha* (*Gosha*) system. The *Nichayadhartham* function which was done some days prior to the marriage accompanied with feeding, etc., has been of late brought over to the day of marriage itself, and it is done as the first formal function in the early hours on the day of marriage. On the morning of the marriage day the bride's party accompanied by musicians carry to the house of the bridegroom a number of baskets containing cocoanuts, plantains, betel and a *turban*. The bridegroom goes with a *prohit*, and men and women of his caste to a well, and having taken bath, returns home. Then the bridegroom is conducted to the *Chavadi*, where the gaudy *turban* is put on his head, and he is decorated with jewels and garlands. Towards the evening the bridegroom goes to the bride's house, taking with him a tray containing an expensive woman's cloth, the *tali* tied to a gold thread and a pair of gold bracelets. The bridegroom takes his seat on the dais while the bride conducted

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1. Castes and Tribes of Southern India, by E. Thurston.

there by her brothers, sits by his side. The tali, after it has been blessed by the Brahmins, is tied round the neck of the bride by the bridegroom and her brothers. The pair then go round the dais, and the bride places her right foot thrice on the grindstone. Their little fingers are linked, and their clothes tied together.<sup>1</sup>

Among the Nadars the betrothal is observed as a formal ceremony. On the appointed day the bridegroom moves in procession to the bride's house. The bridegroom and the bride sit on a plank and the former ties the *Sankuthali* with one or more conch like ornaments on either side. They then rise from their seats and go round the marriage platform thrice. After the other ceremonies are over the marriage feast is held. After that the married couple go in procession to the bridegroom's house<sup>2</sup>.

Among the Scheduled Castes, the marriage custom is very simple. On the wedding day of the Pallars, a booth is erected, a milk pot is set up by the maternal uncles of the bride and the bridegroom, a marriage dais is made and the couple are made to go round four betel leaves and arecanuts placed at each corner of the dais, three times, saluting the betel as they pass. They then sit on the dais. The Kudumbar or Kaladi pours a little water on the palms and heads of the couple and waves the water vessel before them, while the maternal uncles, headman and others garland them. Then the *tali* is placed on the neck of the bride by the bridegroom to be tightly tied there on by his sister. Among the paraiyars, the ceremony is more simple. The essential part of it is the tying of the *tali* round the bride's neck. This is done by the bridegroom in the presence of a Valluvar who blesses the pair. The marriage custom of the Chakkiliyars resembles that of the Paraiyars.

For the Muslims the marriage ceremony as ordained by religion is short and its rituals are more in the form of an offer and acceptance. It is not a sacrament. It is in the form of a contract and the bridegroom and the bride are the parties. Two witnesses are necessary. The marriage ceremony begins with the betrothal when certain terms as to the place and the time of the marriage are agreed to and the bride price (*Mahar*) is fixed. And then comes the important ceremony of marriage. The bridegroom goes in a procession to the mosque and prays there and comes to the bride's house where she is decorated and kept in a room separately. On the decorated dais, the local priest recites the verses from the *Koran*. Then two witnesses (*vakils*) are sent to hear the consent of the bride. Then the contract is signed by the bridegroom, the bride, and the two witnesses. The ceremony ends with the prayer (*Fathina*). The marriage is usually followed by a feast.

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1. *Castes and Tribes of Southern India*, by E. Thurston

2. *Gazetteer of India*, Page 290.

Among the Catholics who form the major community among the Christians in the District, the alliances are arranged by the parents of the bride and bridegroom. The marriage is solemnised in the Church. Before the actual marriage ceremony takes place the local priest announces thrice in the Church, the desired union, and if there is no objection the marriage is solemnised in the Church. The priest blesses the union first and the bridegroom ties the *tali* around the bride's neck. The ceremony ends with the priest invoking the blessing of God on the wedded couple followed by the holy sacrament.

#### *The Dowry system :*

The dowry system is fairly prevalent among all the castes and communities in the District. The amount of dowry depends mainly on the social status, education, occupation, and wealth of the proposed bridegroom. The amount is paid either in cash or in the form of gold or jewellery or property.

However in 1961, the Indian Parliament passed into law, the Dowry Prohibition Bill. In the terms of it, "if any person after the commencement of this act demands directly or indirectly from the parents or guardian of bride or a bridegroom as the case may be, any dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 6 months or with fine which may extend to Rs. 5,000 or with both." To avoid any malafide cases in coming before the law courts, the Bill also provided that no court shall take cognizance of any offence under the aforesaid provision, except with the previous sanction of the State Government or such office as the State Government may by general or special order specify on that behalf<sup>1</sup>.

#### *Civil Marriage :*

Inter-caste and inter-community marriages are not very rare in the District. The Special Marriage Act passed in September 1954, permits marriages between persons of different religions and castes, and allows those already married by religious rites to register their marriages and qualify themselves for a civil divorce. This Act which came into force on the 1st January, 1955, repealed the Special Marriage Act III of 1872. The Act of 1872 was meant to provide a form of marriage for those who did not wish to conform to the existing forms of marriage. Under the Act, the Divorce Act had to be invoked to obtain a decree of nullity or dissolution of the marriage<sup>2</sup>. The Act of 1954 is popular in the District. Twenty-nine marriages were registered under this Act up to 31st December, 1962.

1. The Hindu, dated 10th May 1961 pages, 1,5 and 9

2. Law for the Layman, Government of India, July 1954, page 77 and Social Legislation, page 91.

### *The self-respect Marriages Act<sup>1</sup> :*

This Act was passed on 18th July 1967. This Act gave legal sanction to self-respect marriages. "It has been customary to conduct marriages in the presence and presidentship of some elders". This is a "permissive legislation". This Act gives permission to those willing to have self-respect marriages. In the words of Perarignar Dr. Annadurai, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, "Customs observed by people for a long time are usually given legal recognition later. Custom by usage becomes law ; custom by usage gets legal sanction. Likewise we are granting a legal sanction to a custom prevailing in the society for about 30 or 40 years".

**Marital Age** :—Pre-puberty marriages or infant marriages were common among various castes and communities, especially among the Tamil Brahmins in the by-gone days. But now-a-days the marriage age has gone up both in the cases of men and women. For girls marriages are arranged only after puberty. In the case of educated men and women the marital age has gone up still further. Generally the girls are married in their teen ages while the boys get married in their twenties.

**Divorce** :—As marriage is considered to be sacred by all communities and castes divorce is generally not looked upon with favour by the Hindus. However the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 permits divorce under various circumstances. Divorce has not gained currency in the District, inspite of the freedom and the facilities accorded. But among certain castes divorce is recognised by custom. Among the Kallars, Maravars, Agamudaiyars and the Scheduled Castes, dissolution of marriage is easy and common. Among the Kallars a man gives his wife a piece of straw in the presence of his caste people, as a token of divorce. In Tamil the expression "to give a straw" means to divorce and "to take a straw" means to accept divorce. Divorce under the Moham-madan law is also rather easy process, for one has only to pronounce the words, "I divorce you" (*Talaq*) thrice, and the marriage terminates. But such cases of divorce is rare in the District<sup>1</sup>.

### ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE OF WOMEN AND THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY.

The women of the District is generally held in high esteem and there is no crippling of their freedom of movement and activity. They remain mostly in their homes, and look after domestic duties, thus falling in the category of non-earning dependants with no income of their own. But among the agricultural classes women do work as daily labourers both in the fields and in the quarries. Even those women who work come mostly under the category of earning dependants. As enumerated at the Census of 1951 under earning dependants, women were more numerous than men. **This**

<sup>1</sup> Source : Government of Tamil Nadu, *Tamil Arasu*, Fortnightly, 16th September 1971, pages 7-8.



is because, most of the women are employed as agricultural labourers which is seasonal and after the season ends they remain unemployed. Moreover the wages paid for them are inadequate. In many middle class and poor families, the income derived from the wages of women who are employed is just sufficient to supplement the income of the senior male members, who have the responsibility of maintaining the family. And in all livelihood classes there are large numbers of women as non-earning dependants.

*Prostitution and Traffic in Women:*—There are no licensed houses of prostitutes in the District. The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act V of 1930, suppresses this anti-social action, in the District.

The problem of prostitution has also to be solved outside the prison bars, by social rehabilitation work. It is a mental and moral sickness. Such unfortunate women who are found to be stealthily engaged in prostitution are rescued from the vicious trade by official as well as non-official agencies, and for this work the Madras State has a well organised vigilance service. Rescue homes are provided for those unfortunate women where shelter and training in a useful craft are given to them. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India promotes the cause of improving the lot of the fallen sisters.

Statistics of offences under the Madras Suppression of immoral Traffic Act 1930.

| Year. |    |    |    |    |    | Put up. | Convicted. | Discharged |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|---------|------------|------------|
| 1954  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15      | 15         | ..         |
| 1955  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29      | 26         | 4          |
| 1956  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33      | 28         | 3          |
| 1957  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37      | 27         | 2          |
| 1958  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..      | ..         | ..         |
| 1959  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11      | 9          | 2          |
| 1960  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20      | 16         | 4          |
| 1961  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9       | 9          | ..         |
| 1962  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10      | 8          | 2          |
| 1963  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12      | 11         | ..         |

*Drinking and Gaming Act:*—

As it always happens with all legislative enactments meant for enforcing social good, there have been cases in the District in which the Prohibition Act had been violated by individuals. These law breakers, are, however, brought to book by the police.

The statistics below shows the offences under the Prohibition Act for the period from 1956 to 1963:—

| <i>Year.</i> |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Number<br/>of<br/>cases<br/>charge<br/>sheeted.</i> | <i>Number<br/>of<br/>persons<br/>involved.</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| 1956         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,018  | 3,98   |
| 1957         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,587  | 3,405  |
| 1958         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,737  | 2,629  |
| 1959         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,675  | 1,669  |
| 1960         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,800  | 1 785  |
| 1961         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,790  | 1,741  |
| 1962         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,039  | 2,007  |
| 1963         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,297  | 2,255  |

The Madras Gaming Act passed in 1930 also goes a long way to maintain peace and order in the District. The Act provides for severe punishment of those who own gaming houses, those who permit gaming in houses and those who encourage such acts by advance of money.

The statistics below show the offences under the Madras Gaming Act, 1930 in the district.

| <i>Year.</i> |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Reported.</i> | <i>convicted.</i> | <i>Discharged.</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1954         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,414            | 1,335             | 9                  |
| 1955         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2                | 1                 | 1                  |
| 1956         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10               | 1                 | 9                  |
| 1957         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..               | ..                | ..                 |
| 1958         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..               | ..                | ..                 |
| 1959         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                | 1                 | ..                 |
| 1960         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2                | ..                | ..                 |
| 1961         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..               | ..                | ..                 |
| 1962         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..               | ..                | ..                 |
| 1963         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..               | ..                | ..                 |

## HOME LIFE.

*Dwellings furniture and decorations ;*

The total occupied houses in the District are 419,880 of which 322,179 houses are in the rural areas and 96,701 houses in the urban areas<sup>1</sup>. The following table compiled from 1951 census Report shows the size and composition of the houses in the District.

| General<br>(Population<br>Persons<br>per 1,000<br>Houses.) | Rural<br>(Population<br>Persons<br>per 1,000<br>Houses.) | Urban<br>(Population<br>Persons<br>per 1,000<br>Houses.) | Houses<br>per<br>100 Sq.<br>miles. | Average<br>inmates<br>of a<br>House. |        |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
|  |  |  |                                    | Rural.                               | Urban. |
| (1)  | (2)  | (3)  | (4)                                | (5)                                  | (6)    |
| 4,967  | 4,786  | 5,569  | 8,638                              | 4.7                                  | 5.5    |

From the above statement it may be seen that the house density in the District is 8,638 per 100 square miles and this figure works out to 860 houses per square mile. This figure is comparatively lower than those relating to the neighbouring Madurai and Tirunelveli districts where they work out to 944 and 1,200 houses per square mile respectively. The number of houses per square mile shows wide variation from taluk to taluk with the lowest number in Ramanathapuram and the highest in Srivilliputtur. The number of inmates of the houses also shows greater disparity in rural and urban areas. The average number of inmates of a house in the rural area is 4.7, while the figure works out to 5.5 in the urban area.

The pattern and location of houses in the District are the same as elsewhere in the State. The houses are generally built in streets, the Brahmin, Harijan and Muslim quarters being separate. The wants of the village people are generally limited and are locally supplied by village artisans, barbers, etc. The great majority of the people live in thatched houses, of which many are single-room buildings built of mud, without windows and with a single door for both man and the beast. The wealthy live in terraced buildings.

The houses of the poorer classes contain very few articles of furniture. There are generally mats which supply the place of chairs and beds, some earthen vessels to hold water and for cooking, a few oil lamps and a flat round stone for grinding curry, powder, etc. Every family has a *chembu* (a small brass pot) and a drinking cup made of brass. China and enamelled vessels are rarely found. Cheap brass vessels and aluminium vessels are commonly used in villages.

Among the houses of the educated and the upper classes modern furniture and vessels are commonly found. Among the houses of the Nattukkottai Chettiars the silver and eversilver vessels are commonly found. Plantain leaves are also used to eat off on ceremonial occasions. Dried leaves of banyan (*ficus bengalensis*) and *puvarasu* (*Butea frondosa*) are also generally used as plates.

<sup>1</sup> Census Hand book, Ramnad District, 1961, page 12

The houses of the middle classes have walls made of sun-dried or burnt bricks. They also have substantial roofs and also doors and windows. They may be either terraced or tiled. The poorer sections live in huts and their households generally have only very few earthenware and mats.

*A Description of the Houses:*—Most of the houses in Chettinad and other eastern taluks of the District are of similar style of construction though not of similar size. Roofing with tiles is a common sight. A typical Nattukkottai Chettiar's house may now be described.

The Nattukkottai Chettiars are one among the major castes of the District. Their houses in *Chettinad* are generally built on a pattern of their own. All of them have certain features in common.

The buildings are generally constructed on high basements of laterite known as *Sempurankal* (செம்புரங்கலை) and are usually length. On an average each house is generally more than 100 feet by 200 to 300 feet. The entrance of the houses are generally protected by cast-iron gates.

On entering a typical house of a Nattukkottai Chettiar, one generally comes across plants, chiefly plantains, on either side. On one side there are a well and a bath room. The gate leads to a *Verandah* with massive polished pillars. Usually a house will have two *verandahs*, both covered at two different levels. These are intended to accommodate a large number of persons during ceremonial occasions. Passing through the *verandah* one enters a big hall. Beyond this hall is a big quadrangle flanked with rooms on both sides and a *verandah* all round. At the other end of the quadrangle there is another hall similar and parallel to the front hall. In this rear hall, swings and the like are provided in oriental style. Next to this rear hall are the kitchen, dining hall, etc.

The houses are generally estimated to cost from a lakh of rupees to 7 lakhs or more. They take about 2 to 4 or even 5 years to build. The ceilings are generally fitted with richly carved wood and are painted. Pillars are well polished and are protected with cloth covering. Black stone polished pillars are very common. Floors are laid either with marble stones or tiles or polished stones. All the Nattukkottai Chettiars houses are made with *Madras Plaster*. It is a mixture of shell-lime, sand-ground fine, powdered marble and soap stone. The walls are polished with the polishing stone to render the surface smooth and reflecting. Generally the families use the rear portion of the house and keep the front dortion locked for use during ceremonial occasions.

The settlements of Chettiars are practically of the same pattern in all parts of the Chettinad. The one thing that may strike everyone is their narrow lanes. In recent times, modernisation has set in the pattern of their buildings.

Why the Chettiars houses are commodious is explained by the fact that married sons are to be provided with separate quarters in the same house so that they may cook and eat separately. Even the widowed mother is no exception to this. The same type of houses are found not only among Chettiars but also among other communities as well. The difference lies only in the variations in size.

We find another type of houses in West Ramanathapuram. These houses are different in size and style from those of East Ramanathapuram. The houses are crowded so much that common walls are very common. Most of the houses smack of feudal architecture. Lack of ventilation and light is glaring in a number of houses. Even though the houses of the rich are bigger in size and well furnished, they are old fashioned in many respects, and are devoid of modern conveniences. Most of the houses are terraced. A few are roofed with tin sheets. Houses with tiled roofs are as rare as they are very common in East Ramanathapuram. Most of the houses do not have backyards.

Wells are very rare sights in most houses. People fetch water from public wells which are fortunately numerous. Wells are usually larger, deeper and square or round shaped with surrounding walls of two to three feet in height. The drawing pulleys are conspicuous by their absence.

Individual houses lack proper drainage facilities. Waste water is often shed into streets through irregular holes made in the walls. In most of the houses there are no latrines.

In recent years new buildings of modern style are cropping up everywhere. People of means seem to have a tendency and taste to new types. The new houses are of varied patterns. Walls are slender and stronger. The windows are of different designs. A drawing hall in the middle and rooms on the wings are the features of an agreeable model. The dull exterior of the old type is replaced by an attractive facade.

If strength and exuberance are the features of the old type slenderness and simplicity are the virtues of the new type. The massive pillars are discarded in favour of wiry ones.

A third type of habitations is seen widely scattered through out the District. They are, the huts. The constituents of a hut are short unplastered mud walls on four sides, a hole in front to be used as entrance and exit and a thatched roof above. If any hut happens to have an extra space in the front or in the rear it is used as stable for the cattle. A few pieces of plough, a spade, a crow-bar, a sickle, a few utensils of cheap metal and a few earthenwares are the only possessions of the hut. To add to the hard plight, huts are usually clustered. A cluster of huts is generally called a 'cherry', which is often situated at a respectable distance away from the habitations of other communities.

The inhuman conditions with which the hut dwellers have to put up with, deserve every help from Government as well as philanthropists. The Government have already launched many schemes to effect improvements of the huts. The Government have spent and are spending enormous amounts of money on construction of new and improved habitations. Those new settlements are called "Nagars" or "Colonies". One such colony at Sivaganga is named "Kamaraj Nagar". A similar colony has recently been constructed at Rajapalayam for the rehabilitation of the Paraiyars and Pallars. In a number of places in the District, such colonies are either under contemplation or under construction.

The new colony has got certain better features to its credit. Houses are constructed of brick and mortar, in rows with sufficient intervals between them. Houses of either row face a common road. Every house has at least two rooms, with a separate room for cooking in the backyard. The walls are plastered and roofs are tiled. Each colony is also provided with recreational facilities such as parks, play grounds etc. It can be expected that a change in the mode of habitation will certainly bring out a change in the outlook on life for the better.

A fourth type of resorts one can find in the interior of the jungles is at the base of the Western Ghats near Rajapalayam and Srivilliputtur. The Paliyars have for their residence, huts, erected on the branches of trees, caves and crevices of the rocks and a few sheds on the safer sites in the forest. These forest tribes possess nothing but a few implements of crude make and a few earthen pots to keep the daily collections of roots and pieces of flesh. It is good of the philanthropists of Rajapalayam to have constructed near the forest a number of small houses to acclimatise the tribes into civilised forms of living.

*Dress*.—The dress of the people does not differ greatly from that in other southern districts. The ordinary dress of an adult male consists of two thin clothes. The long waist-cloth or *Veshti* is tied round the waist. The upper cloth is called *Angavasthrum* and is worn in the fashion of a Roman Toga, or it is folded and thrown

over the shoulders. Children upto about five years of age generally go about with only a strip of cloth just sufficient for decency, while girls wear *Pavadai* (skirt) and *choli*. The cloth worn by women is known as *Pudavai* or *Selai*. It is from six to eight yards in length. The rural women seldom wear blouses. The women of the Kallars work in the fields with the minimum of clothes to cover the body. However the process of change has taken its root in the District.

Among the Muslims the mode of dress has been much influenced by other communities. The older generation, however, have been continuing their mode of dress and personal appearance. Many of the men folk have beards and shaved heads. They wear fur or cloth caps. They also mostly wear long shirts (or *jibbabs*) coloured *lungies* and a coloured shawl over their shoulders. The dress of the Muslim ladies of the District vary in style from one area to another. In certain areas they wear *saries* of the longer variety and in certain places they wear brightly coloured flowered or checked pattern *lungies* tied over the waist and in certain other areas they wear long-sleeved jackets descending to their elbows. It is of interest that such dresses are worn by women whose menfolk go to Malaya, Singapore, Penang and such other places. Probably such dresses are influences of their contact with people wearing similar dresses. But the *purdah* commonly noticed in North-India (where a dark coloured full gown with veils over the face is worn), is not used by the Muslim women of the District. A plain white cloth serves the purpose. In recent times, however, western ideas of dress and manners have been found convenient. The great majority of the officials and school-going population have taken to wear European costumes. Moreover the distinguishing features in appearance and dress among the various castes have disappeared giving place to certain uniformity in dress and appearance. Almost among all castes and communities today, in matters of dress, new fashions like the skirt, the bushcoat, blouse, etc. have rapidly spread-

**Footwear:**—The practice of wearing footwear, is not very common in the rural areas. Walking, bare-footed is not considered to be below one's dignity unlike in some parts of North-India. Besides there are strict religious instructions among the Hindus prohibiting them from wearing chappals inside the houses, during religious functions and on their visit to the temples.

Among the Christians, a few educated men, mostly teachers, wear trousers and shirts. Footwear is quite popular among them. Among the Muslims, men and women wear wooden sandals or leather chappals.

### Ornamen :

*Tali* is the essential ornament for every married Hindu woman. There are special ornaments for the nose, ears, head, neck, arms, wrist, fingers and toes. Many of these are in the form of rings. The ear is the most be jewelled part of the woman's person. The non-Brahmin women have their ear-lobes dilated with metal ornaments. Toe-rings (மிஞ்சி), ear-rings (தேரடு), and anklets (தண்ணை) are the common ornaments of the women folk. The Nattukkottai women wear heavy ornaments. The Nadar women wear necklaces, bracelets, rings and gold chains. The Muslim women wear heavy silver anklets but this custom is disappearing. They also wear a peculiar kind of ear ornaments. The ear lobes are pierced in many places and ornaments are worn in line along such holes and it looks like one ornament if looked at from a distance.

Golden jewellery form a sizeable portion of the dowry given to the bride in all the castes and classes of the people in the District. However with the passage of time the craze for heavy ornaments have disappeared among women of most of the communities. The more fashionable among them now restrict ornaments to the minimum. Usually they consist of gold chains, a pair of *Kammals* (studs for the ears), a pair or two of *valaiyals* (armlets in gold worn on the wrists), rings and a pair of *Kolusus* (generally in silver for the anklets).

**Food:**—The food of the mass of the people consisted formerly of *cholam*, *ragi* and *cumbu*, but now-a-days rice has become the staple food. All Brahmins and some of the higher caste non-Brahmins such as Vaishyas and Vellalars abstain from meat. Generally the Muslims and the Christians take more fish and meat than others. Beverages like tea and coffee have widely spread even into the rural areas of the District. Though the Kallars, Maravars and Agamudaiyars are non-vegetarians rice forms the staple food. Millets also form a good portion of thier food. The Naidus and Nadars eat fish and mutton but abstain from beef. The Chakkiliars who form the bulk of the Scheduled Castes in the District relish non-vegetarian food and have no objection for beef also. The menu of the hill tribe, the Paliyars, consists of roots, honey, birds and fish. But they strictly abstain from the flesh of the cow. Vegetables, peas, roots and greens of different varieties are the common food in the District. Salt, tamarind and chillies are also largely used.

**Festivals and amusements:**—Festivals are celebrated in all taluks in connection with various temples, mosques and churches. The car festival in Tiruppattur attracts large crowds of people in the month of May. This festival is celebrated for ten days. The *Chiira festival* in the month of April is held in the temples of Nattarasan kottai, Manamadurai and Kuranipatti *Vasantha Utsavam* in Ariyak-kudi in the Tiruppattur taluk in the month of June is observed as an important festival. *Pongal* in January, and *Deepavali* in November



are also occasions for festivity and rejoicing among the Hindu communities. Ramzan and Bakrid are the two important festivals of Muslims. Christmas is celebrated by the Christians with great enthusiasm and interest.

While, the time honoured amusements are still enjoyed by the less sophisticated people in the rural areas, the cinema has firmly established itself all over the District as the most popular form of recreation. Western games like foot-ball, tennis, volley-ball, badminton, etc., have also become much popular among the educated youth of the District.

The people have fewer amusements. A game which is peculiar to this District, and one of the very few manly sports which survive in Southern India is the *Jallikat*. The word *Jallikattu* literally means, "tying of ornaments." On a day fixed and proclaimed by the beat of drums at the adjacent weekly markets, a number of cattle, to the horns of which cloths and handkerchiefs have been tied, are loosened one after another, in quick succession, from a large enclosure amid furious tom-toming and loud shouts from the crowd of assembled spectators. The animals have first to run the gauntlet down along the lane formed by the country carts, and then gallop off widely in every direction. The game consists in endeavouring to capture the cloths tied to their horns. This requires swiftness of foot and considerable pluck, and those who are successful are the heroes of the hour. The sport has been prohibited on more than one occasion, but seeing that no one need run any risks, unless he chooses, existing official opinion is inclined to the view, that it is a pity to discourage a manly amusement which is not really more dangerous than football, steeple-chasing or hunting. The keenness of the more virile sections of the community (especially the Kallars) in this game is extraordinary, and in many villages cattle are bred and reared specially for it<sup>1</sup>. The *Jallikattu* begins at Pongal and goes on till the end of May. The bull baiting festival is celebrated for ten days at Araliparai in the Tirupattur Taluk in the month of February every year. The village drama (often known in Tamil as *Nadagam* in its refined form and as தெருக்கூத்து in its unrefined form) is the most important amusement. The plot is generally taken from the *Ramayana* or the *Mahabharatha* or other classics. The life of *Rama*, the wanderings and sufferings of the Pandavas and their consort, the patient *Draupati*, etc., are the principal themes of perennial interest<sup>2</sup>. Cock fights and quail-fights are also favourite outdoor sports in the District. *Pulikkattam* (known also as *Padinettampulli*) is a game of the type of the chess played with pebbles as, 'pieces' called, 'dogs or goats,' on one side, and 'tigers' on the other. The former have to try to check the latter without getting taken or killed<sup>3</sup>.

1. Francis, Gazetteer of Madura District, page 83

2. Venkatarama Iyyar, K. R., Manual of Pudukkottai State.

3. Ibid.

**Folk arts and Dances :—**Dummy Horse dance (*Poikkal Kuthirai*), Tiger dance, Stick dance (*Kolattam*), *Kuravanji* folk dance, *Karagam*, *Oyilattam*, *Kavadi* and *Bommallattam* are the important among the folk dances prevalent in the Ramanathapuram District. They have been in existence from time immemorial. These dances are rapidly disappearing, on account of modernisation. They make their appearances during festivals, and are performed in streets. In all folk dances colour is a striking feature.

Nattarasankottai, Sivaganga, Paganeri and Ramanathapuram town in this District are the important centres, where folk dances like *Kavadi*, *Karagam*, *Oyilattam*, and *Poikkal Kuthirai* had special encouragement and patronage. There were individuals and institutions at those places, who because of their special fascination for those dances helped to nourish them. It was at Sivaganga, that those folk dances had the royal patronage and the Raja of Sivaganga maintained a school of folk dances, the alumni of which spread those folk dances in and around the District.

***Poikkal Kuthirai* :—**Dummy Horse dance make their appearance during festivals and social functions in all the important towns all over the District. This art is called, *Poikkal Kuthirai* (Dummy Horse dance,) because the horse is without legs. The artist stands either on his own legs or on stilts through a hole on the back of the horse sufficiently wide enough to let him stand conveniently. The dummy horse is made of bamboo and clay, pasted over with paper, and is painted. The artist dances, expressing sentiments of heroism and valour to the accompaniment of *Nayyandi Melam*. The artists dress like kings and queens.

Tiger dance is mostly seen during *Moharam* and *Mariamman* festivals. It was prevalent as a matter of routine during the *Mariamman* festival in Elayirampannai, in the Sattur Taluk. As it gave rise to communal disturbance, this is not encouraged now. The body of the dancer is painted yellow with stripes so as to resemble a tiger. Drums beaten with sticks invariably accompany a tiger dance. The dancer makes fanciful imitation of tiger movements. He does not dance for any profit. This is performed to satisfy the vow made to a Goddess.

One of the types of dance common to all parts of the Ramanathapuram District is the stick dance known as *Kolattam*. A group of girls form a circle or stand in rows, each holding two sticks of about a foot long. They hit rhythmically either one's own sticks or the partner's sticks or allow their sticks to be hit by others' sticks, combined with gestures to the theme of a song. It is taught as a part of education in all girls' schools.

***Kuravanji*** is a folk dance which is a crude form of *Bharatanatyam*. It is called *Kuratti—Kuravan* dance. The dancers adopt fortune telling story or some romantic story for the dance. This is taught even to school children, and they are asked to

exhibit their skill during variety entertainments and functions. Harijan professionals in this type of dance are seen in the Irukkangudy village, in the Sattur Taluk, and also in other parts of the District. This dance is popular in village dramas through out the District and is generally held after harvest.

*Karagam* :—This is an off-shoot of *Bharatha natiyam*. This is mostly performed during the annual festivals of the village deities. The special feature of this dance is that, the dancer should dance to the music by balancing a small decorated mud pot on his head. Sometimes the number of pots is increased to two or three. The pots are not tied to the head or the neck. The pot is made to stand on the head of the dancer by means of a round piece of cloth called *Summadu* (சுமடா). Experts do acrobatics by balancing the pot such as prostrating, jumping, etc.

*Oyilattam* :—It is another form of cultural entertainment in which rows of dancers dressed colourfully, with a handkerchief in their hands recite in chorus, songs with *puranic* and religious themes, simultaneously waving the kerchief very rhythmically to the movement of their bodies and steps. This provides good entertainment and at the same time ennobles the mind. This is practised by the rural folk all over the District.

*Kavadi* :—This art is similar to *Karagam* in all respects, the only difference being that, a *Kavadi* is substituted for the small mud pot. The *Kavadi* is balanced on the shoulders and is even made to roll from one shoulder to the other across the back, while the dance is performed. Generally, all those who perform *Karagam* dance do this also.

*Bommalattam* :—There are different kinds of *Bommalattam*. Toy-like card board figures mounted on wooden sticks are made to dance, and make other movements behind a white cloth screen. The movements of the toys are varied according to the theme of the drama and song. The shadow of the movements of the toys are seen by the spectators from the other side of the screen. The artist who makes the toys move or dance, hides himself so that he is not seen through the screen.

*Silambam* :—This is a martial game played by adolescent youths to show their prowess. This is played during annual festivals of Hindus and Muslims. The participants hold in their hands hard bamboo sticks about 5 to 6 inches long, and strike at each other. The offensive and defensive strokes are master by in execution. It provides many thrills to the spectators, and several anxious moments to the participants.

*Pilgrim centres* :—From very historical times the Ramanathapuram District has been famous for pilgrim centres. Rameswaram has been the sacred pilgrim centre for the Hindus from very ancient times. Pilgrims from all over India come to the holy temple. According to the *Ramayana*, Rama on his return from Ceylon,

after having killed *Ravana* and recovered his wife *Seetha*, rested at this place, and in view to free himself from the sin of having killed *Ravana*, bathed in the sea near Danushkodi and worshipped *Eswara* (*Siva*). It is also believed that *Seetha* herself under *Rama's* orders made the deity of *Eswara* with sand in the form of a *Linga* and consecrated. Hence the name of the town and also of the *Easwara* are called *Ramanatha*. It is also said that *Rama*, when he proposed to worship *Eswara* as stated above, ordered *Hanuman* to go to Kasi (Varanasi) to fetch a *Linga* from there. The auspicious time at which the *Linga* was proposed to be consecrated and worshipped was fast approaching but *Hanuman* had not yet returned with the *Linga*, and therefore under *Rama's* orders, *Seetha* made a *linga* which he consecrated and worshipped. In the meantime, *Hanuman* returned with the *linga* and seeing that one was already founded and all his pains unrewarded, grew angry, and falling before his master, tumbled with face downwards and was hurt. *Rama* pitying him and being pleased with his bravery and faithfulness consecrated and worshipped also the *Linga* which he had brought and ordained that pilgrims resorting to the temple should worship the *Linga* which *Hanuman* had brought first and then the one which *Seetha* had founded. It is even to this day so done<sup>1</sup>. This great temple of *Ramanathaswamy* attracts many pilgrims from all over India. The large and ancient *Siva* temple at Thirunttharakosamangai also attracts many pilgrims.

Sarugani is a catholic centre. A festival is celebrated there by the Catholics in the month of November every year. The festival lasts for a week. On the last day, the car festival is celebrated. The festival of Arulandu is celebrated for a week at Oriyur by the Christians of the Tiruppattur Taluk. De Britto, the Christian Missionary was executed near Oriyur in February 1693. A Church has been built at the spot of his execution. People believe that the soil at the spot looks red in colour, and possesses the miracle of curing diseases. All communities irrespective of caste and religion take part in the worship. Sacrifice of animals is also offered during the worship.

The Anjanamar Pallivasal (mosque) at Manamadurai is considered to be holy as it has been built over the remains of five Muslim saints. The festival of *Chandana Turuse* is celebrated every year which lasts for two days when all communities take part in the worship. During those days, a festival car, called *Chandana Koodu*, is dragged along the streets.

Though animal sacrifice has been one of the essential features of most of the Hindu festivals, one finds a change slowly coming over the attitude of people towards blood sacrifices. Many have developed a feeling of aversion to such sacrifices and consider them as irrational, futile and meaningless. Moreover there is also a change

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1. Ramanathapuram Manual, page 168.

in the mode of diversions during festivals. Instead of finding diversions in *melam*, *villu*, *Karagam* etc., people are increasingly, interested in other diversions such as fireworks, music, drama, etc.

*Clubs and Associations:*—There are a number of good recreation clubs and other associations in the District which popularise modern games and sports, and promote healthy communal life. Besides these there are also a few organisations devoted to the service of the community in general or for the promotion of particular interests. A brief account of a few of the clubs in the District is given below:—

*The N.G.G.O.s' Club (Mudukulattur):*—This 'N.G.G.O.s' Club at Mudukulattur was declared open in the year 1954. This club is a place of resort to the N.G.G.Os. after their day's hard work. The idea of starting such a club in a most under developed area like Mudukulattur was originally mooted out by an enthusiastic group of N.G.G.O.'s and thier ambitions have been fulfilled successfully.

## SPORTS CLUBS.

### E. M. MUTHAPPA CHETTIAR MEMORIAL BADMINTON CLUB.

At Pudukkottai this club is functioning from the year 1962. It has conducted Badminton tournaments (doubles) in the years 1962 and 1963. The teams from Devakottai, Karaikkudi, Ramana-thapuram and Pudukkottai participated in the tournaments. Silver cups were presented to the winners by the club.

### M. P. BAHAVUDEEN ROWTHER MEMORIAL VOLLEY BALL CLUB.

This club has been started only in the year 1963 at Pudukkottai. It has conducted its tournament in the year 1963. The teams from Karaikkudi and Singampunari participated in the tournament. A silver cup was presented to the winners by the club.

The following Recreation Clubs at Devakottai town provide amenities of recreation to the inhabitants of Devakottai:—

1. Town Club,
2. The Union Club,
3. The Metro Club,
4. The Social Club,
5. The Chettinad Club,
6. The Friendly United Club and
7. The Excellent Club.

All the above clubs are of a uniform pattern providing facilities for indoor games to members.

The Town Club and the Union Club are the most popular of the Recreation Clubs. It is situated on the Devokottai-Tiruppattur Road near the Travellers' Bungalow. It has a building of its own with a good lawn for tennis and other outdoor games and sports. The members play tennis, pingpong, cards and caroms.

*The Town Club:*—Devakottai Town club was founded in the year 1960 and its membership is open to all men. The members play volleyball, Tennicoit, and indoor games such as cards, chess and caroms. Members are provided reading facilities. The other clubs are also similar in pattern and working.

Government provides all incentives and concessions for the education and the gainful employment of the poor and the backward sections of the population. Unlike in olden days there is no social discrimination on grounds of caste. Profitable agriculture coupled with security of property by law which has converted the great bulk of the Kallar and Maravar castes into a contented and industrious population. The rise of the business class with increasing opportunities for the middlemen and the assumption of special functions by trade and commerce is a significant social change in the District. The increasing variety of occupations such as clerical and teaching, whose income is characterised by steadiness, has given birth to a distinct class of salariat. The emergence of these classes modifying the caste system of occupation has been the most dominant feature of the changing pattern of the society in the District in recent years. Widow remarriage, though it is not now visited with the same amount of persecution that obtained in the past, has not become common among the communities which have not hitherto practised it. Owing to economic considerations marriage ceremonies have tended to become less elaborate and it is now a common thing to finish in one day the ceremonies that were ordinarily spread over four or five days formerly. Education has been spread rapidly among girls also, and this expansion of education has routed out the child marriages and has raised the marital age in certain cases. The joint family system has been disintegrating due to improved communications, western ideas and industrialisation. The idea of equality has harnessed the minds of the people and the rigid system of caste and the resulting punishment for its violation have given way to peaceful co-existence with fellowmen. Changes in diet and dress are also very apparent. Women are fast discarding the old and heavy jewellery. Among the hill tribes also the process of social change has entered and they are becoming cultured.

#### THE IMPACT OF ZAMINDARI ABOLITION IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

The Ramanathapuram District was largely a zamindari area. Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga zamindaris constituted the biggest of them, occupying seven out of the nine taluks in the District. In the zamindari areas, the revenue administration was in the hands

of the zamindars. The land tax system in them was peculiar and oppressing to the ryots. Ramanathapuram zamindari was mostly under the "Warapathu" or the division system, i.e., the ryots had to share the produce from the land with the proprietor. The share of the proprietor ranged from 48 to 53 per cent of the produce in addition to "Kanganam" and other customary demands like "Mahimai", etc. It was different in the Sivaganga zamindari. They paid on land both in kind and cash with little advantage to the ryots. The assessment in cash ranged upto Rs. 20-per acre for wet lands and Rs. 4-per acre for dry lands. In respect of rent in kind, half the produce was paid if paddy was raised and one-third of the estimated yield if dry crops were cultivated.

Even as early as 1883, the Board was aware that the conditions in the various zamindaris all over the State was not satisfactory. The Board found that the zamindars generally indulged in extravagant habits and litigations, they were oppressing the ryots by over-assessment, they were rack-renting and did not care for the improvement of irrigation sources. Even in the Ramanathapuram District, some of the zamindaris were burdened with debts resulting in mismanagement and accumulation of arrears of rent to the Government. In the course of years both the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga zamindaris leased out large portions of estates for raising money which worsened the conditions of ryots. From 1860 to 1864 many proposals for improving the conditions of ryots in the zamindaris were considered by the Government. In 1864, the Rent Recovery Act was passed. Subsequently, tenancy rights were created by enacting Estates Land Act, in 1908. Though this also failed to serve the purpose, the British Government did not want to scrap the zamindari system, as they considered that it involved a breach of promise made at the time of the Permanent Settlement. On the other hand they considered the Zamindar as a source of strength, politically and socially.

With the dawn of independence beneficial legislations to improve the living conditions of the people were undertaken. The Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947, was passed, which brought the rent payable to the zamindar on a par with the rates of rent paid by a ryot in a Government village. The responsibility of collecting such rent was vested with the Government. The Rent Reduction Act was followed by the enactment of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948. By this legislation, the zamindars who controlled thousands of acres were eliminated after payment of due compensation. This was done in stages. The first batch comprising the two major zamindaris of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga was taken over in 1949. The inam estates were taken in 1951.

The impact of the Zamin Abolition Act on the people was dramatic. Firstly, it improved their social status. Secondly, they were made better off economically, and thirdly, it changed their outlook

politically. As regards the first, the ryot realised for the first time that he is really counted. The Act liberated the energies of the ryots which is a necessary adjunct for their successful development.

Economically, the ryot is well off because the reform has provided the favourable framework necessary for increased agricultural production. The taken-over-estates were surveyed and classified for the purpose of assessments. Irrigation tanks were restored. New dams and supply channels were constructed to provide assured supplies of water. The Act brought all the ryots under a single control, direct management and uniform administration. The right of the ryots to the land became secure and protected by the issue of *pattas*. The emancipated farmer became the owner of his land. Since the assessment was based on the classification of soil which is not changed, the ryot got the full benefit of all his extra labour and out of the improvements he made at his own expense. Now no control is exercised by the officers over the crops of the ryots. Remission of taxes is granted for failure of crops according to rules. The ryot has also become familiar with the new techniques in agriculture with the assistance from the Government. To make credit available at low rates, Multipurpose Co-operative Societies have been provided covering all rural areas and Marketing Co-operative Societies have also been established. As a result of the many-sided development effort, the cultivator's return from his labour has increased to a substantially greater degree.



## CHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

The economy of the District is no exception to that of the State and the country as a whole. It is predominantly agricultural. According to the Census of 1951, nearly 63·7 per cent of the total population of the District were dependent on agricultural occupations. The Census of 1961 also shows that about 67·4 per cent of the total working population of the District are cultivators and agricultural labourers. The latest Census of 1971 shows that about 63·4 per cent of the total working population of the District are cultivators and agricultural labourers.

The District is a vast plain. It stretches from the Western Ghats to the Bay of Bengal. The climate is generally hot and dry. The irrigation sources, which are generally precarious, get their supply during the north-east monsoon period. The soil is generally of a poor nature. It varies from red gravel soil to that of alkaline and sand. Till recently, intensified efforts were not taken by the ryots of the District due to the low seasonal and poor soil conditions. Besides these, the Zamindari system that was in vogue in the area till recently caused an exploitation of tenants and offered no incentives for increasing production.

*The Techno-Economic Survey of Madras* has classified the districts of the State into three broad agricultural regions, using the value of output per acre (gross), productivity. They are *the Well Developed Region*, comprising the districts of Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, South Arcot, Chingleput and North Arcot, *the Region with Average Development* comprising the districts of Tirunelveli, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli and *the Region with Low Development*, comprising Salem and Coimbatore districts in the North and the Ramanathapuram District in the South.

In the Ramanathapuram District as with the other districts of *the Region with Low Development* the value of the output per acre is lower than the State average. Millets, rice and cotton are the important crops of the District. As already observed, the soils in the region are relatively poor and both rainfall and irrigation facilities are also deficient. In the District, the annual rainfall is 32·3 inches, but nearly all of it takes place during the winter months, the rest of the year being extremely dry. The irrigated area in the Ramanathapuram District depends almost entirely on tanks. The tanks are rainfed and water for irrigation from them is available only for two or three months after the rains. During

the rest of the year, very little water for irrigation is available and mostly dry farming is practised. Due to paucity of water in the region only a small proportion of the cultivated area can sustain more than one crop a year. The double cropped area is the lowest in the District.

The development of agriculture in the District is, however, fast progressing in recent years. With the abolition of the Zamindaries, the ryots are resorting to improved methods of ploughing and green manuring. Improved strains of seeds are distributed to ryots and they are asked to run seed farms and the seeds obtained therefrom are purchased by the Agricultural Department at a premium rate for further distribution to the ryots. In drawing up the Five Year Plans for the District particular attention was paid to increase agricultural production. In the Second Five Year Plan, it was proposed to increase agricultural production of the District by 16 per cent at the end of the Plan period in respect of foodgrains, and by about 11 per cent in respect of cotton. It was also planned to develop horticulture wherever there were adequate and dependable supplies of water. Thus the District Agriculture has been well placed on the road to progress and prosperity.

#### AREA AND UTILIZATION.

The total geographical area of the District is 1,250,611 hectares or 3,090,324 acres by professional survey and 1,249,749 hectares or 3,088,194 acres by village papers<sup>1</sup>.

The land area of the District may be classified into two broad types—agricultural and non-agricultural land. Agricultural land may be further classified as (a) net sown area, (b) current fallows and other fallows and (c) culturable wastes. Net sown area represents land sown with crops. Current fallow indicates cropped area which is kept fallow during the current year. Other fallow lands represent all lands which were taken up for cultivation but are temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years. Culturable wastes indicate all lands available for cultivation, whether not taken up for cultivation or taken up for cultivation once but not cultivated during the current year and previous five years or more in succession.

Non-agricultural land includes (a) forests, (b) barren and unculturable waste, (c) land put to non-agricultural uses representing all lands occupied by buildings, road, and railways or under water and (d) permanent pastures and grazing lands.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Madras Season and Crop Report of the Madras State for the Agricultural year. 1960-61, 1963, page 30

The following table shows the classification of the total area of the District.

| (1)   | In<br>Acres. | In<br>Hectares. | Percentage<br>to the<br>total<br>area. |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--|
| (2)   | (3)          | (4)             |  |
| <b>Non agricultural land—</b>   |              |                 |  |
| Forests .. .. .   | 62,743       | 25,391          | 2.0                                    |
| Barren and unculturable land .. ..  | 4,07,126     | 1,64,758        | 13.2                                   |
| Land put to non-agricultural uses ..  | 2,85,057     | 1,15,358        | 9.2                                    |
| Permanent Pastures and grazing lands  | 43,255       | 17,505          | 1.4                                    |
| <b>Agricultural land—</b>   |              |                 |  |
| Net area sown .. .. .   | 14,40,071    | 5,82,777        | 46.6                                   |
| Current fallows .. .. .   | 3,22,956     | 1,30,696        | 10.5                                   |
| Other fallow lands .. .. .  | 1,83,420     | 74,228          | 5.9                                    |
| Culturable Waste .. .. .  | 2,92,277     | 1,18,280        | 9.5                                    |
| Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in the net area sown. | 51,289       | 20,756          | 1.7                                    |
| Total   | 30,88,194    | 12,49,749       | 100.0                                  |

Agricultural lands constitute about 74.2 per cent of the total land area of the District. The relatively high proposition is in keeping with the general trend in the districts of the State. Except in the Kanyakumari and Nilgiris districts, in every other district of the State, the proportion of area available for agricultural uses is higher than that of area available for non-agricultural uses.

The proportion of net sown area (including tree crops and groves) to the total area available for agricultural uses in the District is roughly 65 per cent. The remaining 35 per cent of the total area available for agricultural uses consists of fallows and culturable waste lands, which are still available for agricultural expansion. It has been observed that among the districts of the State, besides the districts of Nilgiris and Tirunelveli, in the Ramanathapuram District also the proportion of fallows and culturable waste-land to the total area suited for agriculture is conspicuously high.

The non-agricultural land in the District amounts to about 25.8 per cent of the total land area. The area under Forests accounts for about 8 per cent of the District's non-agricultural land and about 2 per cent of the total area of the District. The area under 'barren and unculturable land' constitutes roughly 50 per cent

of the non-agricultural land area and 13.2 per cent of the total area 'Permanent pastures and other grazing lands' occupy only about 5 per cent of the total non-agricultural land in the District.

**Land Reclamation:**—The District had 1,18,280 hectares (2,92,277 acres) of cultivable waste land, 1,30,696 hectares (3,22,956 acres) of current fallows and 74,228 hectares (1,83,420 acres) of other fallow lands in 1960-61. Together these form a large tract of land over which cultivation may be extended. Generally speaking, low rainfall, want of irrigational facilities, and lack of financial resources are among the major reasons, for vast stretches of land remaining waste. The main reasons for vast stretches of land in the District to remain waste are as follows :—

- (i) Non-availability of assured water-supply.
- (ii) Non-availability of sufficient water even in garden lands.
- (iii) Poor type of soil
- (iv) Development of village and Cottage Industries etc., round about Sattur, Sivakasi and Virudhunagar.
- (v) The generally poor economic status of the ryots.

By affording the required financial and other facilities, the vast stretches can be profitably brought under cultivation. The Department of Agriculture has taken considerable efforts in this direction in the District. The reclamation of land is done by the extensive use of tractors and bull-dozers. The ryots are induced to take advantage of the use of the tractors and bull-dozers. So far 1,656 acres have been reclaimed in the District with the bull-dozers available in the Department of Agriculture. Besides, soil conservation measures have also been undertaken in the District<sup>1</sup>.

**Reclamation of Alkaline Lands:**—Alkaline lands have always been a problem for the agriculturist who tries to bring them into cultivation. Alkaline soils are formed first by the accumulation of salts in the region of crop roots. This accumulation may be either by the rise of salts from the deeper layers or by the use of irrigation on water that contains a high percentage of soluble salts. The concentration of salts around the feeding zone of roots of crops hinders the growth of plants and makes these lands eventually unfit for cultivation. The saline patches in the District are found as a result of irrigation from wells with brackish water.

The following methods have been recommended by the Agricultural Department for the cultivation of alkaline lands :—

- (i) The land should be ploughed deep and irrigated. The water should be allowed to stand on the lands for one or two days and then allowed to drain.

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<sup>1</sup> See Section on Soil Conservation.

(ii) Green manure crop may be raised in the same field and ploughed back as a source of good manure.

(iii) Prescribed quantity of Super Phosphate fertilizer may be added to the field.

(iv) Palm leaves may also be inbedded well in the fields.

(v) On these lands, Ragi may be cultivated.

(iv) Paddy Strain S. R. 26-B may be cultivated in the lands.

*Afforestation:*—Under the Farm Forestry Scheme forest plantations of fuel species viz., *neem*, *vagai*, *usil*, *karuvel*, etc., are raised in the poramboke lands in the District mostly in tank beds under the control of the panchayats. The scheme was introduced in 1963-64. It provides that these plantations should be raised by the Forest Department, maintained for a few years and then handed over to the panchayats for future maintenance and enjoyment. Under the Scheme a total area of 1,527 acres in 16 Blocks in the District were raised with fuel species during the year 1963-64.

*Soils and Crops:*—Soil is the basis of all human prosperity. Without soil no vegetation can survive, much less any agriculture. As such, it is essential in any scheme of agricultural betterment to have a proper understanding of the soil as a means of improving crop production.

The soils of the Madras State may be broadly classified into the following groups :

- (a) The red soils,
- (b) The black soils,
- (c) The coastal alluvium,
- (d) The delta soils,
- (e) The laterite soils,
- (f) Mixed soils, and
- (g) Organic and forest soils.

Types (a), (e) and (g) are predominantly red or reddish, brown in colour, while types (b) and (f) are dark coloured popularly termed black. The red soils occur over a large area of the State and may be said to be the common type. They occur in all sorts of situations ranging from hill slopes to deep valleys in various parts of the State. Coastal alluviums are also red or reddish brown in colour.

The soils of the District consist chiefly of black sand or loam or red sand. The eastern half of Srivilliputtur and the northern and eastern parts of the Sattur taluks consist of black loam or red soil with a strip of red soil at the foot of the hills. Black soil is found in a deep bay in the ghats of the large village of Watrap in the western portion of the Srivilliputtur Taluk and in the Aruppukkottai Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram taluks. This area is part of the fertile black cotton plain which covers the north-eastern taluks of the Tirunelveli District, the rich valleys in the Southern

part of the Tirumangalam Taluk and part of Periyakulam and Palni taluks of the Madurai District. The level-deposit of black soil overlies a substratum of *lime kunker* stone; it is more friable, less retentive of moisture and well suited for irrigation.

The Black soils of the District are rich in Sodium Oxide, however, they are poor in nitrogen, phosphoric acid and pottash<sup>1</sup>. 73 percent of the cultivated area in the Ramanathapuram District belong to black soil variety<sup>2</sup>.

The southern and eastern parts of the Sattur Taluk consist of red loam and sand. The rest of the country generally consists of a huge expanse of laterite or red soil which is cut through the centre by the fertile valley of the river *Vaigai*. The soil in the coastal and eastern taluks is sandy or red loam or a mixture of both.

The following table presents the distribution of the taluks in the District among the major types of soils.<sup>3</sup>

| Type of soil.             |    |    |    | Taluk or parts of Taluk.   |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|--|
| (1)                       |    |    |    | (2)  |
| Red Laterite              | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Sivaganga, Tiruppattur and Tiruvadanai taluks.  |
| Red Loam                  | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Sattur, Srivilliputtur Aruppukkottai, Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram taluks.   |
| Red Clayey Loam           | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Tiruppattur, Sivaganga, Paramagudi, Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks. |
| Red Sand                  | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Tiruvadanai and Ramanathapuram taluks.   |
| Sandy Soil                | .. | .. | .. | Coastal areas of Ramanathapuram Mudukulattur and Tiruvadanai taluks.   |
| Alkaline Soil             | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Aruppukkottai, Paramagudi Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram taluks.   |
| Black Clay and Black Loam | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Srivilliputtur Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Sivaganga Paramagudi, Mudukulattur Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks.                 |
| Black Sand                | .. | .. | .. | Parts of Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Paramagudi and Tiruvadanai taluks.   |

The Srivilliputtur Hills consist of Schistose rocks of Archaean age with dibasic intrusions. Traces of graphite are common.

Agriculturally, the black loam is considered to be the best soil and holds the highest rate of wet assessment. This type produces excellent crops of all kinds under irrigation, but in the unirrigated

<sup>1</sup> M. S. Randhawa and others—Farmers of India Volume II, New Delhi 1961—P. 30.

<sup>2</sup> Techno Economic Survey of Madras, Madras, 1961—P. 71.

<sup>3</sup> Sources : Special Tahsildar for District Gazetteers, Ramanathapuram.

state it requires heavy rain to bring it to condition. There is sufficient retention of moisture in this soil which often helps the crops to tide over partial failure of rain. The black clay which generally yields good crops comes next in the order of fertility. The red loam is thought to be superior to black clay in some areas and produces a variety of crops both under irrigated and rainfed conditions like paddy, millets, pulses, sugarcane and gingili. The black sand and red sand are inferior soils. They are devoted to the cultivation of groundnut and pulses. Arenaceous soils of the coast are used for the cultivation of coconut, palmyras and cashew.

In the District on the clayey loam soil in river and tank—fed areas, wet land crops like paddy, sugarcane and banana are cultivated. In the red laterite soil, dry crops of millets and soil seeds are cultivated. In the sandy and alkaline soils of coastal areas coconut is cultivated. Cashewnut is also cultivated in the red laterite soil and to some extent in the sandy soil in the coastal areas.

The Revenue Settlement Classification of soils does not strictly adopt the geological series. The table below records the percentage of distribution of soils according to the Settlement Records :

Net area sown in the District in 1956—57 : 13,10,000 acres.

| Classification of soil. |     |    |    |    |    | Percentage. |
|-------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
|                         | (1) |    |    |    |    | (2)         |
| Black                   | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 73          |
| Red                     | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27          |

*Climate and Rainfall:*—The agriculture of any area depends to a very large extent upon its natural climate and seasons, besides soils.

The climate of the District in the plains and on the lower foot hills upto an elevation of 1,000 to 1,500 feet (300 to 460 metres approximately) is generally hot and dry with a low degree of humidity except within a radius of about 12 miles (20 kilometres approximately) from the coast, where the temperature is tolerably cool on account of the sea breeze. April and June are the hottest months.

The District gets a major portion of the rainfall during the north-east monsoon. The upper slopes of the Srivilliputtur hills have however, the benefit of both south-west and the north-east monsoons. The rest of the District receives the bulk of its rains from the north-east monsoon which is often late, irregular and scanty. The solid

barrage of the Western Ghats prevents very little of precipitation to pass through to reach the plains. The north-east monsoon is received from October to December. It is, however, not absolutely reliable and if it fails, or as is more usual, if it is, untimely, the most important dry crops under rainfed tanks cannot be raised. Strangely enough the failure of the monsoon in one season is usually followed by excessive rains, and consequent extensive and destructive floods, as owing to the flatness of the country nearly upto the foot of the Ghats, the rivers and streams all flow in wide shallow valleys. Enormous damage to irrigation works and communications is caused by the floods besides destruction of crops, property and livestock. The people, however, have learnt to expect such visitations and take precautions to save loss of life and property. Moreover with the construction of irrigation dams across the *Vaigai*, *Gundar*, and *Vaippar* rivers the possibility of future floods is remote. A few scattered showers also occur during the hotter months in the District as a result of convectional precipitation.

The average distribution of rainfall in the District during the monsoons and the winter and summer months in 1960-61 as compared with the averages based on the actual observations for a series of years ending with 1940 are given below<sup>1</sup>:—

#### MONSOONS IN THE DISTRICT.

|  | Normal<br>rainfall<br>in<br>millimetres. | Actual<br>rainfall<br>in | Number<br>of rainy<br>days<br>in |
|--|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  |  | 1960-61.<br>(in m.m.)    |                                  |
| (1)                                      | (2)                                      | (3)                      | (4)                              |
| South-West Monsoon (June to September)   | 186.1                                    | 241.3                    | 11.8                             |
| North-East Monsoon (October to December) | 448.8                                    | 529.9                    | 22.1                             |
| Winter period (January to February) ..   | 56.6                                     | 109.0                    | 5.2                              |
| Hot Weather (March to May) .. ..         | 124.9                                    | 92.2                     | 5.1                              |

The normal (the average based on the actuals for a series of years ending with 1940) annual total rainfall of the District is 816.4 m.m. In 1960-61, the annual total rainfall was above the average and stood at 972.4 m.m. The total number of rainy days in the District during the same period amounted to 44.2 days.

<sup>1</sup> Compiled from the *Season and Crop Report Op. cit.*



## AREA UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS.

The following table presents the picture of the percentage of area under principal crops in the District in 1960-61 to the total area sown, compared with the corresponding State averages<sup>1</sup>:—

## PRINCIPAL FOOD CROPS IN THE DISTRICT.

| Crop.   | Area in 1960-61 in |           | Percentage of area to the total area sown in the District. | Average percentage of area to the total area sown in the State. |
|---|--------------------|-----------|--|---|
|   | Acres.             | Hectares. |  |   |
| (1)   | (2)                | (3)       | (4)  | (5)   |
| Paddy .. .. .                                     | 579,236            | 234,409   | 37.2   | 34.4  |
| Cholam .. .. .                                    | 29,802             | 12,061    | 1.9  | 10.6  |
| Cumbu .. .. .                                     | 150,182            | 60,777    | 9.6  | 6.7   |
| Ragi .. .. .                                      | 89,012             | 36,022    | 5.7  | 5.0   |
| Korra .. .. .                                     | 3,444              | 1,394     | 0.2  | 0.3   |
| Vavagu .. .. .                                    | 102,769            | 41,589    | 9.0  | 15.0  |
| Samai .. .. .                                     | 10,287             | 4,163     | 0.9  | 2.2   |
| Maize .. .. .                                     | 754                | 305       | 0.06   | 4.5   |
| Other cereals .. .. .                             | 42,346             | 17,137    | 3.07   | 4.5   |
| Green Gram .. .. .                                | 11,336             | 4,588     | 1.00   | 9.66  |
| Redgram .. .. .                                   | 8,605              | 3,482     | 0.76   | 6.2   |
| Blackgram .. .. .                                 | 10,204             | 4,129     | 0.9  | 9.9   |
| Bengalgram .. .. .                                | 132                | 53        | 0.01   | 4.0   |
| Horsegram .. .. .                                 | 14,295             | 5,785     | 1.26   | 2.7   |
| Other pulses .. .. .                              | 2,446              | 989       | 0.22   | 1.5   |
| Chillies .. .. .                                  | 48,191             | 19,502    | 4.25   | 20.09   |
| Other condiments and spices .. .. .               | 7,612              | 3,080     | 0.69   | 6.0   |
| Sugar cane .. .. .                                | 8,161              | 3,303     | 0.7  | 4.0   |
| Other sugarcrops .. .. .                          | 3,076              | 1,245     | 0.25   | 5.3   |
| Mangoes .. .. .                                   | 1,859              | 752       | 0.16   | 3.0   |
| Plantains .. .. .                                 | 2,097              | 849       | 0.18   | 2.57  |
| Other fruits and vegetables including root crops. | 6,918              | 2,799     | 0.6  | 2.2   |
| Miscellaneous food crops .. .. .                  | 799                | 323       | 0.07   | 8.6   |
| Total food crops .. .. .                          | 1,133,563          | 455,736   | 728  | 75.4  |

## PRINCIPAL NON FOOD CROPS IN THE DISTRICT.

| Crop.                  | Area in 1960-61 |          |             |      | Percentage of area to the total area sown | Average percentage of area to the total area sown in the State. |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|------|---|---|
|                        | in Acres.       |          | in Hectares |      |   |   |
| (1)                    | (2)             | (3)      | (4)         | (5)  |   |   |
| Groundnut .. .. .      | 99,835          | 40,402   | 6.4         | 11.9 |   |   |
| Gingili .. .. .        | 17,778          | 7,195    | 1.1         | 1.7  |   |   |
| Castor .. .. .         | 444             | 180      | 0.08        | 0.2  |   |   |
| Cocconut .. .. .       | 8,701           | 3,521    | 0.6         | 0.8  |   |   |
| Cotton .. .. .         | 2,15,178        | 87,079   | 13.8        | 5.4  |   |   |
| Indigo .. .. .         | 733             | 247      | 0.04        | ..   |   |   |
| Tobacco .. .. .        | 138             | 56       | 0.01        | ..   |   |   |
| Non-food crops .. .. . | 4,23,979        | 1,71,579 | 27.2        | 24.6 |   |   |
| Fodder .. .. .         | 71,947          | 29,116   | ..          | ..   |   |   |

**Paddy:**—Paddy is the most important food crop of the District. Nearly 37 per cent of the total area sown in the District is under paddy and this percentage is also slightly higher than the corresponding State average (34.4 per cent). The area under paddy in the District is also nearly 50 per cent of the total area under cereals in the District.

The paddy crop in the District is generally grown on wet lands, irrigated by rivers, channels, tanks and wells. The total area under paddy in 1960-61 in the District was 579,236 acres or 2,34,409 hectares, against the normal<sup>1</sup> area of 4,61,710 acres or 1,86,848 hectares. Out of this total area under paddy in 1960-61, the area of the crop irrigated amounted to 4,56,568 acres or 1,84,767 hectares. Thus it may be seen that only a considerably low area of paddy was cultivated unirrigated. There has been considerable increase in the area of cultivation under paddy during the last ten years, (1950-51 to 1960-61). In 1950-51 the area under paddy in the District was only 2,41,730 acres. Now in 1960-61, the area under paddy is more than its double (5,79,236 acres). This considerable increase in the area of cultivation is due mainly to changes of tenure brought about by the taking over of the Zamindaris in the District. Besides this the implementation of the *Vaigat Project*, the adoption of the improved methods of cultivation like the Japanese Method and manuring have all contributed to the extension of the area under paddy cultivation in the District.

<sup>1</sup> The word 'normal' here and other places in the chapter unless otherwise stated refers to the average of the five years ended 1959-60.

Generally speaking, there are four distinct types of paddy cultivation. They are : (i) the wet or swamp cultivation under irrigation systems, (ii) the garden cultivation in which paddy is raised as a garden crop under wells, (iii) semi-dry cultivation in which the cultivation starts as a dry crop and the crop is later irrigated after about two months, when the north-east monsoon starts, and (iv) dry cultivation. Broadly speaking, there are three principal cultivation seasons for paddy, the *Kar* season from June to September, the *Pishanam* from October to January and *Navarai* from January to June. The *Kar* crop consists of a number of period-bound short duration varieties which complete their life cycle in 95 to 105 days. These varieties are mostly sown between June and July and harvested in September to October in places irrigated by the South-West Monsoon. In areas where sufficient irrigation is available, the *Pishanam* crop follows the *Kar* crop on the same field and is harvested in February—March. But generally, the *Samba* crop varying in duration from 5 to 6 months is raised from July to September and is harvested in January to February.

The District does not possess any system of irrigation fed by perennial sources except benefiting from the recently constructed *Vaigai Project* in the Madurai District. Therefore, it has to mainly depend on seasonal rains for irrigation. The wet area is extensive in the Srivilliputtur Taluk. The area under paddy is larger in the taluks of Paramagudi, Tiruvadanai, Mudukulattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. The main wet cultivation begins when tanks receive supplies from north-east monsoon in October and the *Kalam* paddy otherwise called *Pishanam* crop is raised during this month. The summer showers of February, March and April bring fresh supplies to irrigation tanks ; with these supplies and rains, short crops or second crop paddy are grown on very small areas of wet lands. These are harvested in June-August. With the early rains of August, the main sowings called *Adipattam* cultivation begins on dry-lands. Dry paddy is raised in Tiruvadanai and Paramagudi taluks and is unirrigated.

There are quite a number of different kinds of paddy and actually several hundred distinct botanical varieties have been found in the State. The traditional varieties change from place to place as the soils and conditions of different localities suit some one variety better than another. The main types are however the *Kar* and the *Samba*. The latter consists of choice varieties. The different varieties of the main groups, however, shade imperceptibly into one another and sometimes, it is difficult to say when *Kar* ends and *Samba* begins. The cultivator has to keep in view many considerations while choosing the particular variety suited for his particular field. Some varieties thrive with less water and with more casual cultivation than others, some give a better grain which is popular in the market but on the other hand are liable to insect pests and diseases and produce a smaller outturn, others are heady, but the

monetary return is not attractive. Some may mature in 6 to 7 months while others mature in 3 to 4 months. Some are particularly suited or unsuited for special popular dishes like, *idli*, *puttu*, etc. while others have good milling and par-boiling qualities. More than 70 improved strains have been released from the paddy breeding stations in the State and these are suited for the regions in which the stations are situated. In the District, the following improved varieties of paddy strains have become popular<sup>1</sup>.

CO 2.  
CO. 13.  
CO. 25.  
CO. 29.  
GEB. 24.  
ASD. 4.  
ASD. 11.  
SR. 26-B.  
BAM. 3.  
ASD. 1.  
ASD. 5.  
TKM. 6.  
ASD. 8.

The normal annual production of rice in the District is 1,73,690 tonnes or 1,70,950 tons. In 1960-61 the production was higher than the normal average at 1,92,390 tonnes or 1,89,350 tons. During the decade, 1950-51 to 1960-61, the production of rice has considerably increased in the District. In 1950-51 it was only about 62,000 tons.

#### MILLETS.

The Chief millets of the District are Cumbu, Ragi, Cholan, Varagu and Samai.

#### CUMBU.

Cumbu is the important millet of the District. Nearly 10 per cent of the total area sown in the District is under Cumbu. The percentage area under Cumbu in the District to the total area sown is well above the corresponding State average, which stands at 6.7 per cent. The normal area under cumbu in the District is 57,551 hectares or 1,42,210 acres. In 1960-61, 60,777 hectares or 1,50,182 acres were under cumbu. The total annual outturn of Cumbu crop in the District in 1960-61 amounted to 44,280 tonnes or 43,580 tons, against the normal yield of 32,900 tonnes or 32,420 tons. During the decade, 1950-51 to 1960-61 the area under cumbu has increased from 76,050 acres in 1950-51 to 1,50,182 acres in 1960-61. Large areas under cumbu in the District are found in the taluks of Sattur and Aruppukkotta.

<sup>1</sup> For details please See page 263.

The cumbu crop can be grown in regions of low rainfall with 17 to 30 inches per annum in places where even cholam fails to come up well. It is shorter in duration than Cholan and is grown both as a pure crop and also as a mixed crop with a variety of other crops. It does not require any careful preparatory cultivation and matures in about 4 to 5 months. The crop, however, requires careful watching from the time of grain formation as birds are very fond of the grains. It is harvested by cutting the ear-heads as they ripen. As the crop matures in stages depending upon the moisture condition of the soil, the harvest extends over some weeks. Sometimes the plants produce another crop of ear-heads after the harvest of the first crop, if there is sufficient rain. The Cumbu straw is considered to be bad for cattle and is not used as fodder. The stalks are, however, used for thatching or as fuel.

A number of improved straws of the crop have been released by the Agricultural Department. The strains, K1 and K2 (generally irrigated in February-May and rainfed in October-January) have become popular in the District.

#### RAGI.

Ragi is a cosmopolitan millet in its distribution. It may be grown on a wide range of conditions from very poor to very fertile soils. It, however, thrives well on drained loam, though it can withstand a moderate degree of alkalinity of the soil. The average area under Ragi during the three years 1960-61 to 1962-63 was 81,231 acres in the District.

Unlike rice, ragi can be grown in practically all the twelve months of the year though in actual practice there are two well-marked seasons for the crop in vogue in the State. The most important is the main season where the sowing is done in May to June. The other season is from November to the middle of January. This is a crop of 4 months duration. As this crop tillers profusely, the ear-heads of ragi do not ripen at the same time and the harvest extends over a number of days. The ear-heads are gathered as they ripen and are allowed to ferment slightly in heaps when the grains become loose in the husk and are easily trodden out. Ragi straw is a nutritious cattle fodder. Ragi grains are stored in high level areas in pits with dry bottoms. The seeds intended for sowing are, however, kept in the ear-heads in gunny bags.

Several improved strains of ragi have been evolved at the Millets Breeding Station, Coimbatore and other regional research stations. The strains CO2, CO7 and K2 are raised in the District. Ragi when prepared in the proper way is as good as any other cereal food. The preparations made out of ragi are many and varied and the most important of them is *kali*.

The annual total outturn of the crop in 1960-61 in the District was 36,330 tonnes or 35,760 tons against the normal yield of 35,800 tonnes or 35,240 tons.

## CHOLAM.

This is also an important millet of the District. It is grown mainly as a rain-fed crop and only about 2 per cent of the total area sown in the District is under the crop. Its importance as a food crop lies in its being the heaviest yielder of both grain and straw among all the rain-fed cereal crops. The grain serves as the staple food of the poorer classes, while the straw is a very good fodder for cattle.

The normal area under the crop in the District is 14,609 hectares or 36,100 acres. In 1960-61 an area of 12,061 hectares or 29,802 acres alone were under the crop. The total annual outturn of the crop in the District in 1960-61 amounted to 10,120 tonnes or 9,970 tons. In the District, large areas under the crop are found in the taluks of Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur. Fodder cholam is grown in the Taluks of Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukkottai.

Generally speaking, there are two main seasons for sowing cholam as a rain-fed crop, the early season in June-July and the late season in October-November. Under irrigation, cholam may be grown at any time of the year though it is usual to sow it either in December or in April-May. The yield under irrigation is about three to four times the yield that can be obtained from rain-fed crops. In the District, the practice of growing cholam under irrigation is more common. Irrigated cholam is watered once a week in summer. The duration of the crop varies from 75 to 105 days and its height ranges from 2 feet to 15 feet. Cholam normally responds well to manuring and irrigation and a yield of 2,500 lbs. to 3,000 lbs. is then obtained as against unirrigated yields of 400 lbs. to 1,000 lbs. of grain. The cholam crop when ripe is harvested by means of a sickle cutting the crop four to six inches above the ground level. The grain intended for food is stored in underground pits and the seeds are kept in gunny bags.

The Agricultural Department has evolved a number of improved strains of cholam. The strains raised in the District are K1, C09, K2, C018 and K3.

## VARAGU.

This crop is usually relegated to the poor soils. In spite of adverse conditions the crop comes up well even on poor soils and yields a small return. It occupies the ground for over six months, a period longer than any other millet. The crop is hardy, drought-resistant and relatively free from pests and diseases.

The area under varagu in the District in 1960-61 was 41,589 hectares or 1,02,769 acres, against the normal area of 42,909 hectares or 1,06,030 acres. The total outturn of the crop in 1960-61 amounted to 41,120 tonnes or 40,470 tons. In the District this crop is largely grown in the taluks of Aruppukkottai, Tiruvadanai and Mudukulattur.

**SAMAI.**

Like Varagu, this is also a long duration crop of 6 months. This is a crop that can be grown at comparatively higher elevations (even upto 7,000 feet). The crop is grown largely in the Aruppukottai and Srivilliputtur taluks of the District. The area under the crop in the District in 1960-61 was 4,163 hectares or 10,287 acres against the normal area of 5,285 hectares or 13,060 acres. The total outturn of the crop in 1960-61 amounted to 2,290 tonnes or 2,250 tons.

**KORRA (THINAI).**

This is a minor food crop of dry land areas. It can be grown on a wide variety of soils and at any time of the year though it thrives best on good black or red loams in areas of low to moderate rainfall of 15 to 30 inches per year. The area under Thinai in the District in 1960-61 was 1,394 hectares or 3,444 acres against the normal area of 571 hectares or 1,410 acres. The annual production of the crop in 1960-61 amounted to 900 tonnes or 890 tons.

**PULSES.**

Among the various food crops of the District, pulses constitute an important group. They form the main source of proteins in a vegetarian diet. Pulse other than horsegram accounted for about 2 per cent of the net area sown in the District in 1960-61. The normal area under pulses in the District is 17,474 hectares or 43,180 acres. In 1960-61, an area of 19,026 hectares or 47,018 acres were under pulses in the District. Green gram, Blackgram, Horsegram and Redgram are important pulses grown in the District.

The pulse crops occupy an important place in the agricultural economy of the District. The seeds inside the pods yield the pulse for human consumption, while the by-products like the husk and broken seeds make an excellent feed for cattle. Pulses thrive on a wide range of soils. They cannot, however, stand heavy rains and prolonged drought. Light showers received in intervals of two to three weeks during the growing period are what the pulses need for optimum fields. Generally, pulses are grown only as rain-fed crops.

**GREEN GRAM AND BLACK GRAM.**

These are generally sown in paddy fields just before the harvest of the paddy or as a mixture on dry lands. The plants are pulled out when they are ripe, spread out on the threshing floor during the day and kept heaped up during the night. This process is repeated for three or four days by which time most of the pods would have dehisced liberating the grains. The produce is then beaten with sticks or trodden under the feet of cattle according to its bulk and winnowed out. Storing is done generally in earthen vessels or wooden bins.

Black gram is grown largely in the Sattur Taluk and Green gram in the Tiruppattur Taluk. 4,488 hectares or 11,336 acres of lands were under Greengram in the District in 1960-61, against the normal area of 3,278 hectares or 8,100 acres. Black gram accounted for 4,129 hectares or 10,204 acres of land in 1960-61, against the normal area of 4,573 hectares or 11,300 acres. The annual total outturn of Green gram and Black gram in 1960-61 in the District amounted to 1,310 tonnes or 1,290 tons and 1,530 tonnes or 1,510 tons respectively.

#### HORSE GRAM.

This is a pulse that can be grown in the poorest soils. It needs least attention and the minimum rainfall. It grows on dry lands and even when other crops fail due to unfavourable seasons, the horsegram does not fail.

In the District, the crop is cultivated chiefly in the Mudukulattur, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Srivilliputtur taluks. An area of, 5,785 hectares or 14,295 acres were under the crop in 1960-61 in the District, against the normal area of 6,402 hectares or 15,820 acres. The total outturn of the crop in 1960-61 amounted to 1,230 tonnes or 1,210 tons.

#### REDGRAM.

In the District, redgram is sown in heavy soils as late as October, after getting rains from the northeast monsoon, because the southwest monsoon is generally too feeble in the District to support the crop. When the pods are ripe, the entire plant is cut and allowed to dry for a few days. Then the stalks are beaten on the ground when the pea-like seeds emerge. The seeds are soaked in water mixed with red earth and the soaked seeds with the mixture of red earth are heaped in a mass over a wooden pestle laid flat on the ground and is covered with gunny. After allowing one or two days, when germination starts, the heap is broken up lifting the pestle. After the seeds are dried in the sun, the *dal* is got by removing the outer shell in a hand mill.

The area under Redgram in the District in 1960-61 was 3,482 hectares or 8,605 acres, against the normal area of 1,890 hectares or 4,670 acres. The area under the crop is large in the Sattur Taluk of the District. The total outturn of the crop in the District in 1960-61 amounted to 1,420 tonnes or 1,400 tons.

#### CONDIMENTS AND SPICES.

Spices are very important in human diet. Added in limited quantities and in suitable combinations to articles of food, they produce the necessary taste and flavour. Even comparatively coarse articles of food are made sufficiently tasty for consumption



by the addition of suitable spices. The important spices and condiments under cultivation in the State are betel-nuts, cardamoms, chillies, ginger, pepper, turmeric, garlic, coriander and tamarind. Of these, betel-nuts, ginger, and pepper are not grown in the District. Cardamom, though grown in the past in the District on a small scale is not grown now (1960-61). The condiments and spices grown in order of importance in the District are : chillies, coriander, tamarind and turmeric.

The total area under condiments and spices in the District in 1960-61 was 22,582 hectares or 55,803 acres, against the normal area of 16,666 hectares or 41,180 acres. The largest extent under condiments and spices is found in the Paramagudi Taluk.

The following table shows the area and yield of the important condiments and spices in the District.

| Crop.             | Normal area. |              | Area in 1960-61. |              | Total<br>out-turn<br>in<br>1960-61<br>in Tonnes |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---|
|                   | in Acres.    | in Hectares. | in Acres.        | in Hectares. |   |
| Chillies .. .. .  | 33,100       | 13,395       | 48,191           | 19,502       | 18,360  |
| Coriander .. .. . | 8,620        | 2,679        | 6,335            | 2,564        | N.A.  |
| Tamarind .. .. .  | 1,016        | 409          | 1,029            | 416          | N.A.  |
| Turmeric .. .. .  | 240          | 97           | 230              | 93           | N.A.  |

(N.A. Figures not available.)

Chillies were introduced into India by the Portuguese about the seventeenth century and have become so acclimatized to Indian conditions that chillies become to be thought of as indigenous to the country. As a condiment it has become indispensable in every home. In the District, the largest area under condiments and spices was occupied by chillies. It is an important spice crop grown both under dry and irrigated condition. The red variety with different sizes and shapes is commonly cultivated in the Ramanathapuram District. As a dry crop, it is grown extensively. The crop is raised either in the main season irrigated or as a dry crop commencing from September. It is transplanted with seedlings raised in well prepared nursery beds in the month of October. Usually the source of irrigation is wells. The crop is susceptible to attack of thrips both in the nursery and in the main field. At the nursery stage, dusting with B.H.C. 10 per cent is done to control thrips and when planting, the seedlings are treated with Fylotam and Folidol. Afterwards in the main field B.H.C. 50 per cent is spread three or four times with an interval of three to four weeks to control the pests like thrips and disease like blast. In the fourth month, the ripe fruits are picked and dried for marketing. About three or four pickings are carried out. The main variety popularly grown in the Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram taluks is the 'Gunlu

variety which is exported to Madras for internal consumption. Sattur, Rajapalayam and Virudhunagar areas cultivate a variety popularly known as *Sattur Samba (Sannam)*. This variety is generally exported to Ceylon via Tuticorin.

Coriander is also an important condiment in Indian culinary preparations. It gives a fairly good return to the cultivator. In the State, coriander thrives best in the hot and dry regions like the Ramanathapuram District. It is generally cultivated as a rain-fed crop in the black cotton soil and rarely as an irrigated crop.

### HORTICULTURE.

Cultivation of fruits is by far the most important item of horticulture in the District. Most fruits yield much more from a unit area than several agricultural crops and thus help in meeting the food shortage in the country as subsidiary foods. Besides, it will open out the way for several dependent industries which can contribute to the prosperity of the nation. Thus fruit production has a very important place in the District agriculture.

The total area in the District under fruits in 1960-61, was 2,435 hectares or 6,018 acres, against a normal area of 2,027 hectares or 5,010 acres. The area under fruit trees is large in the Srivilliputtur and Sivaganga taluks. Fruits may be classified into two categories—fresh fruits and dry fruits. The important fresh fruits grown in the District are bananas, mangoes and fruits of citrus varieties. Generally important dry fruits are grown in the District.

### CULTIVATION OF CASHEWNUTS.

Cashewnut cultivation is now becoming popular in the red laterite soil of the District and to some extent in the coastal areas in the sandy soil. It is cultivated in waste lands. The nuts are sown *in situ*, about 15-20 feet apart during the South West Monsoon period. Seedlings also can be raised and transplanted. The trees begin to flower and yield in about 3 years after planting and continue to bear fruits for about 20 years. Nuts become ready for harvest from the end of February to May. The yields vary from 1 lb. to 30 lbs. or more according to individual trees.

Larger area of waste lands can be reclaimed and brought under cashew cultivation in Mudukulattur and Aruppukottai and in parts of Sattur Taluk in red soils. The above crops can be successfully grown by sinking wells.

Red loam, red sandy loam and red loam with poor fertility of soil can also be utilised for raising this crop. This crop can be raised with least water supply as this crop requires initial watering and then it comes up well by utilising the rain water.

At present a special scheme has been launched for the establishment of cashew orchards in patta lands as well as in the waste lands vested with panchayats issuing loans at Rs. 80 per acre to the maximum of Rs. 2,000 per individual. The loan is recoverable after five years in annual instalments.

The following tables show the area brought under cashew cultivation in the Sattur and Sivaganga agricultural divisions in recent years under the cashew development scheme:—

**Area brought under cashew in the Sattur Agricultural Division,**

| <i>Years</i>         |  | <i>Area<br/>(in acres.)</i> | <i>Amount<br/>advanced<br/>(in rupees.)</i> |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1961-62 .. .. .      |  | 50.00                       | 3,900                                       |
| 1962-63 .. .. .      |  | 445.00                      | 35,640                                      |
| 1963-64 .. .. .      |  | 148.00                      | 11,770                                      |
| <b>Total</b> .. .. . |  | <b>643.00</b>               | <b>51,210</b>                               |

**Area brought under cashew in the Sivaganga Agricultural Division.**

| <i>Years.</i>        |  | <i>Area<br/>(in acres.)</i> | <i>Amount<br/>advanced<br/>(in rupees.)</i> |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1961-62 .. .. .      |  | 79.21                       | 5,860                                       |
| 1962-63 .. .. .      |  | 68.13                       | 5,450                                       |
| 1963-64 .. .. .      |  | 5.00                        | 400   |
| <b>Total</b> .. .. . |  | <b>152.34</b>               | <b>11,710</b>                               |

#### **OTHER SCHEMES OF HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Larger area can be brought under fruits in the Srivilliputtur Taluk near the foot of the hills, where the soil is loamy to red loam upto a depth of 8 to 10 feet. Particularly in Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur and Watrap blocks, the fruit crops can be successfully grown utilising dependable river streams in these areas. Particularly coconut and mango orchards are raised utilising the river streams.

Larger areas can be brought under fruits by reclaiming forest area, waste lands, etc., vested with panchayats and temple *mutts*, etc. Larger area of poromboke lands are in the Srivilliputtur Town, and a good portion of them can be reclaimed. The area of poromboke owned by the Srivilliputtur Devasthanam is highly suited for raising horticultural crops.

The sandy loam soil is ideal for fruit growing. The crops can be successfully grown in these areas by sinking wells for irrigating the fruit crops. Mango, jack, sapota, limes, guavas, orange, lemon, etc. can be grown in these lands.

The special scheme, known as *Horticulture Development Scheme* is functioning successfully. Under the scheme, loans to private parties are issued at Rs. 300 per acre to a maximum of Rs.2,000 per individual under long-term loans for certain new order orchards. The loans bear interest at 5½ per cent and is recoverable in ten annual instalments. The scheme is functioning from the year 1959-60. The Department of Agriculture also provides short-term loans at Rs. 65 per acre to a maximum of Rs. 650 for regeneration of old orchards. The development of horticulture is now under the technical control of the Assistant Horticulturists at Coimbatore with an Assistant at Sattur for the entire Ramanathapuram District.

During the Second Plan period, for the development of horticultural schemes, long-term loans amounting to Rs. 33,480 and short-term loans amounting to Rs. 825 were given in the District. During the ten years from 1950-51 to 1960-61, about 1,39,746 fruit trees were also distributed to the fruit growers in the District for further development.

#### BANANAS:

The banana is said to have been originally cultivated for its edible root. But now every part of it is made use of by man. The banana is generally grown on well-drained wet lands. It is adapted to a variety of soils ; sandy soils with low water holding capacity are however not suitable. The banana yields heavily, producing over ten tons per acre and brings a good return to the grower.

In 1960-61, an area of 849 hectares or 2,097 acres was under banana groves in the District. Generally, planting takes place from January to June, but in garden lands and in places where irrigation facilities are ample, it is done in other months also. The land is first thoroughly ploughed and well manured with 20 to 30 cartloads of farm-yard compost per acre. Pits are then dug 1½ to 2 feet each way and for a like depth and filled with the richer surface soil. The pits are in rows two to three yards apart and there may be 700 to 1,000 of them in an acre. The general method of propagation is by suckers. Sword suckers from older plantations with tapering tops are preferred to the suckers with wider leaves. The suckers are

topped 12 inches from the rhizome and kept aside for a few days before planting. The shoots are not watered for a fortnight after planting. Generally, there is an interval of about a month after the first irrigation. It is common in several parts to manure bananas before planting. In certain other parts, it is applied two to four weeks after planting. A second dose of manure is applied in about 5 to 6 weeks. A third application may follow two months later. As the main plant grows, a number of suckers also develop, but only a few of them are kept. It has been observed that the maximum growth of the plant occurs from July to November. The time of flowering is influenced by the variety, season of growing, manuring and irrigation practices. Generally speaking, the time taken from planting to maturity varies from 10 to 18 months depending on the factors enumerated above.

The popular varieties of bananas grown in the State are generally *Poovan*, *Rasthali* and *Peyan*, besides the cooking varieties of *Monthan* and *Nendran*. *Ilai Vazhai* prized for its leaves is also a popular variety. In the District *Poovan*, *Monthan* and *Marutius* (short varieties) are popularly grown and about 70 per cent of the plants is of the *Monthan* variety.

#### MANGO :

Mango is a fruit par excellence, and owing to its high adaptability to different types of soils, the cheapness of its culture, its high yields and extremely delicious qualities, it is popularly cultivated in the District. The area under mango in the District in 1960-61 was 752 hectares or 1,859 acres, against the normal area of 489 hectares or 1,210 acres.

Mango adapts itself to a wide range of soils in the plains. It has, however, a preference for deep-well drained soils which are moderately fertile. Generally speaking, dry weather and cloudless sky at flowering and fruit ripening periods help crop size. Dry summers help the shoots to get the desired rest period for a successful fruit bud initiation, and dry seasons preceding the emergence of blossom, which will induce early cessation of growth also give a good crop.

The mango is a perennial crop which, generally speaking takes about eight to ten years for economic bearing. Mango trees in full bearing yield about 400 to 650 lbs per tree. The popular varieties of mangoes grown in the District are *Rajapalayam Sappattai*, *Panchavarnam*, *Bangalore Kallamai* and *Pottiladi*. Ordinarily about 36 plants are allowed to grow in an acre. To promote growth, crops are not allowed to bear for the first three or four years. The gardens are improved by inter-culture and by growing a pulse crop like horse gram. Graft mango gardens bear well for about 50 years when they have to be renewed.

## VEGETABLES AND GARDEN PRODUCE.

The total area under vegetables in the District in 1960-61 was 1,965 hectares or 4,856 acres, against the normal area of 2,174 hectares or 5,370 acres. Among the vegetables grown in the District, sweet potatoes occupied an area of 25 hectares or 62 acres ; and onions, 1,409 hectares or 3,482 acres. The growing of potatoes and tapioca is not popular in the District.

A brief account of some of the vegetables and garden produce grown in the District are given below :—

### BRINJAL (*Solanum Melongena* ; *Kathiri*):—

There are many local varieties which differ in colour, shape, size and flavour. This vegetable is grown all over the district on garden lands, some times separately but more often mixed with various vegetables or at the edges of betel gardens.

### YIELD BEAN (*Dolichos lab-lab* ; *Avarai*):

This is a vegetable generally cultivated in the back-yards of most of the houses. The green tender pods or the mature seeds are used in culinary preparations.

A large number of local varieties with pods differing in size, shape and colour are grown in the district.

The main season for growing the crop is June to September when heavy yields are obtained. Sowings are also done in January for better profits as the crop comes up for harvest in August. A *pandal* or trellis is provided for the vines to spread out or else the yield gets considerably reduced. In the case of the variety, D. L. 1428, *Pandal* is not necessary. The garden varieties should be irrigated twice a week during dry weather. The vines start yielding about 4 to 5 months after sowing. Yields ranging from 3,000 to 11,000 lbs. of green pods per acre are obtained.

### (TOMATO) (*Lycopersicum esculentum* ; *Semai Thakkali*):

This vegetable is generally grown on all types of soils, preferably on loams. The suitable season for the cultivation of the vegetable is September to November.

### ASH GOURD OR ASH- PUMPKIN (*Benincasa Cerifera* ; *Kalyanapushni*):

This is very widely cultivated all over the District. The fruits are usually 1 to 1½ feet long, upto 25 lbs. in weight, smooth, but covered with whitish bloom. When fully ripe rind becomes hard and the fruits keep well for a long time.

**BITTER-GOURD OR CARILLA FRUIT (Momordica Charantia ;***Pavakkai :*

The fruits are slightly bitter and largely used in making *curries*. There are several cultivated forms which differ in size and colour of the fruit ; some forms have long warty fruits which vary in length from 4 inches to 12 inches while others produce small fruits ranging in length from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch.

**CALABASH CUCUM BER OR BOTTLE-GOURD (Lagenaria Vilgaris ;***Sorakkai) :*

This vegetable is now largely cultivated. Unlike the other gourds this has white flowers. When fully ripe the rind of the fruit becomes very hard and woody and then it can be used as a vessel or flask.

**CUCUMBER (Cucumis Sativus ; Velliri) :**

There are different local varieties of the fruit which differ in colour, shape, size and flavour. It is mainly grown in tank beds when tanks get dry in the beginning of summer. The fruits are eaten fresh or cooked.

**PUMPKIN (Cucurbita Maxima ; Sakkarai Pushinikkai, Arazani Parangikkai) :**

There are several varieties of the fruit differing in shape, size and colour. It is chiefly a rainy weather crop. The ripe and unripe fruits are used as vegetables for making *curries*. It is usually grown near the edges in field margins. It is also grown in some parts as a field crop.

**RIBBED-GOURD (Luffa acentangula ; Peerkankai) :**

This is considered to be one of the best of the indigenous vegetable plants. The fruits grow to about one foot and have sharp ridges externally. It is cultivated all over the District.

**SNAKE-GOURD (Trichosanthes anguina ; Pudalangai) :**

This gourd is cultivated commonly throughout the District as a rainy season crop in back-yards and garden lands. There are different varieties differing in size of the fruits and its colour. The ripe fruit is deep orange in colour externally and the pulp inside in which the seeds are imbedded is scarlet in colour.

**SWEET POTATO** (*Ipomoea batatas* ; *Sakkaraivallikizhanqu*  
or *Chinikizhangu*):

A white skinned and a red skinned varieties of sweet potato are known. Sweet potato is grown as a garden crop. The live vines are cut into lengths with generally three nodes, and planted on ridge or flat beds. Care is taken to see that spreading plants do not root at the nodes. Sweet potato is commonly used as food, either cooked as *curry* or boiled, roasted or fried. The vines are good cattle food.

The Department of Agriculture is taking active interest for the development of vegetables in the District. The Department distributes improved seeds of vegetables to vegetable growers in the District. During the Second Five-Year Plan period, nearly 1,818 pounds of vegetables seeds were distributed for raising vegetables on 1,370 acres in the District. As a result an additional quantity of 4,080 pounds of vegetables were obtained in the District.

**COMMERCIAL CROPS.**

Oilseeds and cotton form the important commercial crops of the District. Among oilseeds, groundnut and gingili are important. Among other important commercial crops of the District are coconut and sugarcane.

**Groundnut:**—Groundnut is the most important oilseed raised in the District. The area under groundnut in the District in 1960-61 was 40,402 hectares or 99,835 acres against the normal area of 32,173 hectares or 79,500 acres. The crop is largely cultivated in the taluks of Sattur and Aruppukkottai. The annual outturn of the crop in 1960-61 in the District amounted to 46,660 tonnes or 45,920 tons. There has been considerable increase in the area of cultivation of this oilseed in recent years. In 1950-51, the area under groundnut was only 55,946 acres. In 1960-61 it has risen to 79,500 acres. Of this, the area of the crop irrigated in the District is 6,375 hectares or 15,754 acres.

The groundnut crop is mostly raised under rain-fed conditions from June-July to December-January the time of sowing depending upon the receipt of the south-west monsoon rains. It is also cultivated as a summer crop under irrigated conditions from February-March to June-July. The crop is grown on a variety of soils. The sowing is done either in lines behind a country plough or by means of a seed drill. The seed rates varies from 60 to 100 lbs. of kernels per acre depending upon the habit of growth and size of kernels. Optimum seed rates have to be used to obtain good results. Normally two inter-cultivations are given. The crop is harvested when the vines begin to turn yellow and the inside of the shell turns dark. The short duration bunch type is harvested by pulling out the plants with hand. In the case of long duration spreading type, the plants are dug and removed with a spade (*mammuti*) and



the nuts left in the soil are subsequently gathered. Sometimes when the soil hardens, it may be necessary to work the country plough before either digging with a spade or working the blade harrow. Hence harvest of the spreading type is both laborious and expensive. Generally women and children attend to these operations and are paid a share of the nuts they gather. The groundnut haulms are stacked for use as cattle feed mixed with straw. Groundnut is an exhausting crop. It requires a liberal supply of the manures applied on dry lands. It is the practice to give 2 to 8 ploughings with the country plough before sowing groundnut. A spacing of nine inches either way has been found to be the best for spreading varieties under rain-fed conditions; bunch varieties give maximum yield when spaced 6 inches apart. This works out to a seed rate of about 75 lbs. of picked kernels per acre for the spreading and 100 lbs. for the bunch types. The ryots have now begun to realise the advantages of using higher seed rate, viz., higher yield, uniform maturity and good quality of produce with groundnut. Mixed cropping is more remunerative than pure cropping. Among the mixtures, groundnut-cotton, groundnut-castor, groundnut-cholam and groundnut-redgram are the most remunerative, though the yield of groundnut is depressed particularly in the case of spreading types. A cereal crop which follows groundnut does better than when it follows a cereal.

The crop is usually sown behind a country plough and covered by passing a *brush harrow* (branches and twigs tied up in a bundle). This is the flat system of cultivation which is largely in vogue. The maximum yield and the best quality of produce are obtained when the crop is harvested, when it is fully mature, as indicated by the yellowing of leaves and the development of dark colour inside the shell of the pod. In this crop, the early bunch varieties have a duration of 105 days, and the late ones up to 135 days. Under rain-fed conditions, the normal yield ranges between 1,000 to 1,250 lbs. of pods per acre; under irrigation 3,000 lbs. per acre are obtained.

Groundnuts are stored either as pods or as kernels depending upon the quantity to be stored, the use to which it will be put to, and the facility available for storage. Groundnut intended for storing is always well dried and separated from damaged or diseased pods before storing. Drying in the open sun in thin layers for about a week after harvest till the kernel inside becomes crisp, gives best results. The most convenient method of storing large quantities of groundnuts is to pack them in good gunny bags which are clean, dry and free from all insects. The bags must be stored in a dry room and the nuts should be periodically taken out and dried in the sun. Groundnut intended for sowing is not kept for more than a year. The average oil content of the groundnut kernel is 50 per cent.

The Agricultural Department have evolved the following high-yield strains of groundnut:—

|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| T.M.V. 1 (A.H. 25) ;              | } (Spreading varieties.) |
| T.M.V. 3 (A.H. 698) ;             |                          |
| T.M.V. 4 (A.H. 334 ; and          |                          |
| T.M.V. 2 (A.H. 32)—Bunch variety. |                          |

The varieties, T. M. V. 1 and T. M. V. 2 are popularly grown in the Ramanathapuram District.

**Gingili:**—Next to groundnut gingili is an important oilseed grown in the District. An area of 7,195 hectares or 17,778 acres were under the crop in 1960-61 against the normal area of 4,824 hectares or 11,920 acres. The annual production of gingili in the District in the year 1960-61 amounted to 2,190 tonnes or 2,160 tons. This crop is extensively raised in the Paramagudi Taluk.

Gingili is an easy crop to grow with very little rain or moisture. In the District, with the summer showers of February, March and April, which bring fresh supplies to the irrigation tanks, the *Mast-pattam* crop of gingili is generally grown. This is harvested in June-August.

Gingili is an exhausting crop. As it exhausts the soil, the succeeding crop will have to be manured well. The field is well ploughed and the seed is sown in lines behind the plough or broadcast. The seed rate varies from 1 lb. when sown in the furrows to 3 lbs. as a broadcast crop. The optimum spacing for line sowing is 9 inches  $\times$  9 inches for the winter crop and 12 inches  $\times$  12 inches for the summer crop. The seed takes about 10 days to germinate and the crop is intercultivated a fortnight later—when a good deal of thinning is done. The crop is harvested when the stem has turned yellow and the capsules begin to burst. The stalks are dried on the threshing floor until the capsules burst fully and are easily shaken out. The oil content of the crop is about 50 per cent.

Gingili is the source of much valued oil and oil cake. The oil is very widely used for edible and domestic purposes. The oil-cake is also used as a valuable cattle-food. The seed is also used in household preparations.

**Cocoanut:**—Cocoanut is also one of the important oilseed crops of the District. The area under cocoanut in the District in 1960-61 was 3,521 hectares or 8,701 acres, against the normal area of 2,562 hectares or 6,330 acres.

The cocoanut is a very useful tropical palm. Every part of the tree is utilised in one way or other. The raw nut and edible copra are important articles of food and indispensable items of divine oblation and religious functions. Oil obtained from the copra is utilised in cooking, and industrially for the manufacture of vegetable ghee, soaps and toilet articles. The other products of the tree like

the husk, shell, etc. also find diverse uses. The husk gives coir fibre out of which a variety of products such as yarn, mats, brushes, etc. are manufactured. Spoons and ladles are made out of the shells and also decorative articles by skilful craftsmanship. The shell is also burnt in some places and converted into charcoal, which is in demand for the manufacture of gas masks. The trunk of the palm is useful as timber and the leaves are used in thatching roofs making baskets, mats, brooms, etc. The unfermented sweet juice of the cocoanut may be converted into jaggery. Thus cocoanut is a very useful crop and brings very good returns to the grower, and its importance in the agricultural economy of the District needs no emphasis.

The best soil for the cocoanut is the red alluvium with a fair proportion of sand to ensure proper drainage. Soils lacking in water holding capacity and suffering from excessive dryness or improper drainage are unsuitable for cocoanut cultivation. In the District, cocoanut is largely cultivated in the sandy and alkaline soils of the coastal area of the District.

There are two types of cocoanuts, the tall and the dwarf. The tall one lasts for 80 years. The dwarf variety is short lived and lasts only for 30 years. The dwarf variety begins to yield in 4 years but the tall variety, however, takes 8 to 10 years under rain-fed conditions. The dwarf variety is grown mainly for earliness and the attractive colour of the nut (deep green, yellow and orange).

The land selected for planting cocoanuts should be levelled or terraced. Spacing of 25 feet between trees in equilateral triangular pattern helps to plant about 90 trees per acre. The pit for planting should be about 3 feet square and 3 feet deep. The pits are dug 2 months before planting and available rubbish is burnt inside to prevent attacks by white ants. Planting is done immediately after the heavy rains are over. Under favourable conditions flowering begins 5 years after planting. In the loamy soils this may go up to 7 to 10 years while in the gravelly soils flowering may be delayed till 15 to 20 years. The first few bunches are generally barren and the bunches may be irregular. The normal yield begins 5 years after the first flowering. Thereafter a bunch is produced at monthly intervals. Each bunch will be ready for harvest after a year. Up to 60 years economic yields may be obtained. Thereafter, the plantation may have to be underplanted.

Due to the reorganisation of States, the area under cocoanut in the State as a whole was reduced. Therefore, special measures were taken by the Agricultural Department to extend the area under cocoanut cultivation in the State. In the Ramanathapuram District cocoanut development schemes were launched under the Five-Year plans. Now there is a Special Deputy Director of Agriculture at Ramanathapuram, who is incharge of the cocoanut development schemes in the District. The following is in brief, the activities of the cocoanut development programme in the District.

Towards the end of the Second Five-Year Plan period, a miniature scheme for the development of cocoanut plantations in the coastal areas of the District was sanctioned. It had a limited object of settling 100 landless poor families in Government lands over a period of 2 years of the scheme and assisting them to raise cocoanut gardens in the area allotted to them by giving necessary financial assistance in the form of interest-free long term loans. This scheme was put into operation in 1959-60 and 44 families were settled by the end of the Second Plan period.

Because of the success obtained under the scheme, during the Third Plan period an expanded comprehensive scheme was sanctioned.

This scheme, namely, the Comprehensive Cocoanut Development Scheme contemplates the bringing of an additional area of 9,000 acres under cocoanut in the coastal areas of the District during the Third Five Year Plan period. This is to be achieved by providing all necessary aids to the local population as well as the repatriates from Ceylon. A phased programme of planting 1,800 acres every year is to be executed for this purpose. Besides securing requisite aids the parties taking up cocoanut cultivation under the scheme will also get the technical assistance of the Development Staff.

The beneficiaries under the scheme are of two broad categories.

(i) *Landless poor persons and Ceylon repatriates:*

They will be allotted Government lands to a maximum of 5 acres per individual family. It will be assigned as per the rules in force to the allottees in the first instance on condition that they should clear the area immediately and bring it under cocoanut cultivation. Other aids by way of fencing materials, manures, subsistence advance at Rs. 30 per mensem and plant protection aids will also be given in the form of interest-free long-term loans recoverable in 15 equal annual instalments commencing from the eleventh year of planting. Of the five acres allotted, cocoanuts will have to be planted in three acres and the remaining area is to be utilised by the allottees for putting up a shed and raising other crops or planting cocoanuts itself.

(ii) *Pattadars.*

All the items of loan assistance given to the Ceylon repatriates and landless poor will be given to this class of beneficiaries also for planting cocoanut in their patta lands except the subsistence advance of Rs. 30 p.m. In addition among these pattadars those who raise more than 5 acres under cocoanut will be eligible for a loan amount of Rs. 1,000 for digging a well in every 5 acres they raise under cocoanut of which 25 per cent will be treated as subsidy the rest only will be recovered as in the case of previous category.

The jurisdiction of the schemes which till recently was restricted to Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks have been extended to Paramagudi and Mudukulattur taluks also

The gross cost of the scheme including financial assistance is estimated at Rs. 52,78,939. Out of this expenditure, a sum of Rs. 3,57, 500 being the sale proceed of the seedlings supplied from the nurseries will be recovered during the scheme period itself. The loan assistance advanced to the different categories of growers will be recovered in 15 equal annual instalments commencing from the eleventh year of planting. The net cost to Government in implementing the scheme for the five-year period will be Rs. 9,39,339. This will be shared between the Central Government and the State Government on 50 : 50 basis.

The Comprehensive Scheme was sanctioned in December 1961, however, the nursery part of the Comprehensive Scheme was put into operation in July 1961 itself. Four large scale nurseries started to function under the Third Plan with headquarters at Pamban, Uchipuli, Devipatnam and Tirupullani. Among these four nurseries, the two nurseries already functioning at Pamban and Uchipuli were expanded and two more new nurseries were started at Devipatnam and Tirupullani. All the four nurseries were expected to produce 1,20,900 seedlings during the year, 1961-72 by planting 1,60,000 seednuts. Against the expectation 97 per cent could be achieved by supplying 1,16,400 seedling raised in the above four nurseries. The supply completed only in March 1963. At the end of the year, 1961 the number of the landless poor families settled under the Scheme was 71.

During the year 1962-63, as contemplated in the Comprehensive Scheme, an additional single unit nursery was put into operation at Tondi in the Tiruvadanai taluk. Thus during the year 1962-63, five nurseries were functioning in the District with a targeted production of 1,35,000 seedlings for distribution by planting 1,80,000 seed nuts. Against this 1,61,560 seednuts could be procured and planted in the five nurseries the distribution of which is in progress. It is expected to distribute 1,28,000 seedlings from the 1,61,560 seednuts planted in the five nurseries. Sixty more families were settled during 1962-63 and the progressive total number of families settled in Government lands under the scheme rose to 131 families by the end of the year. The above families have established cocoanut plantations in 334 acres. As regards sanction of loans to pattadars during the year 1962-63 a total of 1760 loan applications were received from Pattadars in addition to 270 applications received during the previous year. By the end of 1962-63 449 cases were sanctioned to a tune of Rs. 406469 for raising cocoanut plantations and sinking of wells. The cases of other applications were under investigation.

The Agricultural Department also takes effective steps to popularise the scheme among the cocoanut growers in the District. Near the Uchipuli Cocoanut Nursery, Cocoanut Cultivation Department Farm has been started on an area of 12.75 acres. At

this Farm the methods of cultivating coconut even in water stern-maot low level areas are demonstrated. Under the Coconut Development Scheme large scale exhibitions are also organised at various places in the District and different varieties of Coconut quality seedlings and the coconut products are exhibited. In addition proper planting of coconut and plant protection measures to be adopted to the coconut crop are also demonstrated to the public. Thus in the year 1962 large scale exhibitions were held at Mudukulattur, Paramagudi and Kadaladi. Under the Five Year Plan publicity programme also intensive propaganda about the coconut development scheme is carried out. Special meetings at the firka level are organised at various places in the District and the details of the scheme are explained to the gathering. In 1963 a special propaganda drive was initiated by the District Collector for giving publicity to the scheme in the Mudukulattur and Paramagudi taluks. Large scale public meetings were held in all the Blocks in those areas.

*Sugarcane :*

Sugarcane is also an important commercial crop of the District. An area of 3,303 hectares or 8,161 acres was under the crop in 1960-61 against a normal area of 1,509 hectares or 3,739 acres. The annual outturn of the crop in the year amounted to 2,36,320 tonnes or 2,32,590 tons. In Srivilliputtur and other parts of the District, fairly large areas are under improved varieties of sugarcane crop.

Sugarcane is a long duration, exhaustive crop. It thrives best in fertile soils with good drainage facilities. The crop may be practically cultivated on a variety of soils, namely clay soils, and clay loams, red loams and sandy loams. Shallow soils, and poor gravelly and sandy soils are unsuitable. The crop is however cultivated invariably upon irrigated lands often supplemented by wells as the canes need constant watering during their growth. The crop also needs much manure. As this crop is rather expensive in cultivation only well-to-do ryots take to it.

The crop is rotated with paddy on wet lands and with other irrigated crops in garden lands. Ratooning<sup>1</sup> of sugarcane does not take place in the District. In 1960-61, the area under ratooned cane was nil. The time of planting of the crop is generally determined by the distribution of rainfall, the source of irrigation the rotation of crops and requirements of canes from nearby factory, if any. In the District the irrigated crop is planted in March-April. The important varieties of the crop suitable for the District are C.G. 419, 449 and 467.

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1. After the harvest of Sugarcane, under favourable conditions, fresh shoots come up. If this fresh growth is taken care of by proper cultivation, manuring, irrigation, etc. a good crop can be raised. This is termed ratooning.

Before planting operations commence, the field in which the cane is to be cultivated is divided into ridges separated by channels at distances of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet, depending upon the soil and variety of cane. The mature tops of the crop, are used as seed material. The usual practice is to plant the setts in furrows. The setts are generally planted half an inch below the soil in continuous line. For about a fortnight the channels are flooded once in 4 or 5 days until the buds grow into shoots. The irrigation is regulated during germination. In about 10 days time after planting sprouts appear. About a third of the sprouts emerge within 2 weeks. By about the 5th week the germination is complete. Weeding and hoeing, filling up of gaps, trenching and earthing, wrapping and propping, 'trashing' and removal of late shoots are the important cultured operations after planting. The cane is harvested by cutting close to the ground with a sharp knife. The trash is removed with a sickle. Both the trash and bagasse are used as fuel. The cleaned cane is sent to the sugar factory or is milled for jaggery making.

There are schemes of sugarcane development in the District. Use of improved seeds and quality seedlings, application of correct doses of manure, adoption of improved method of cultivation such as using of optimum seed rate, sowing in lines, adopting of timely plant, protection measures and harvesting at the proper stage are advocated under those schemes.

**Cotton:**—This is the most important industrial crop of the District and the District is one among the important cotton growing districts of the State. In 1960-61, the area under the crop in the District was 87,079 hectares or 215,178 acres against the normal area of 78,420 hectares or 193,780 acres. The area under the crop has considerably increased in recent years. In 1950-51, only an area of 126,115 acres were under cotton. In 1960-61, the area had increased by more than forty per cent.

The following table shows the varieties of cotton grown in the District and the area under each of them in 1960-61 :—

| Variety.                                | Area in 1960-61. |              |
|---|------------------|--------------|
|   | In acres.        | In hectares. |
| Madras American Cambodia .. .. .        | 32,432           | 13,125       |
| Madras American Cambodia Uganda .. .. . | 2,716            | 1,099        |
| Karunganni K2 and K5 .. .. .            | 1,66,418         | 67,347       |
| Karunganni Ordinary .. .. .             | 9,838            | 3,981        |
| Uppam .. .. .                           | 3,774            | 1,527        |
| Total ..                                | 215,178          | 87,079       |

The entire area of *Karungani* or *Desi* cotton crop is grown during winter season (October–April) purely as a rain-fed crop while the major area under the *Americans* is cultivated as an irrigated crop during summer season extending from March to August in the tank-fed rice lands supplemented by well irrigation.

*Karunganni-Cottons*.—Forming part of the *Southern Tinnies* area, the black soil area of this District grows *Desi* cottons known in trade as *Tinnevellies* or *Karunganni*. The normal area under *Desi* cottons in Ramanathapuram District is placed at about 1½ to 2 lakh acres against 5 to 6 lakh acres under this crop in the State. This variety here is generally sown broadcast in October–November with the break up of the North-East Monsoon. The harvests are completed by about April and yields ranging from 250 to 300 lbs. of *Kapas* per acre are obtained. The main features followed in the cultivation practices are (a) using seed rate of 15-20 lbs. per acre ; (b) growing cotton pure or mixed with a subsidiary crop like coriander or blackgram or tenai in rotation with cumbu or fodder cholam ; and (c) giving hand weeding and hoeing operation once or twice by way of intercultivation.

There is great scope for improving the cultivation practices followed by the farmers growing *Karunganni* cotton in increasing the yields of their crop. Improvement in the method of sowing, nature of preparatory cultivation, manuring practices and after cultivation practices are some of the important aspects investigated by the Department of Agriculture and recommendations for adoption to improve the yield of the rain-fed *Karunganni* crop.

The improvement work on *Tinnevellies* cotton was started at the Agricultural Research Station, Kovilpatti (Tirunelveli District), in the first decade of this century and *Karunganni* Cotton strains Company-2, Company-3, A-10 and C-7 constituted the early releases followed by strain K-1, a re-selection from C-7 released in 1935. This strain was popular for a few years, but was found unsuitable for certain tracts and was also susceptible to wilt. This was replaced by an improved strain K-2 in 1948-49. By about 1957-58, it had spread to cover about 74 per cent of the total area of *Karunganni* Cotton in the District. Further work continued in the Scheme for the Improvement of *Karunganni* Cotton started in 1949, resulted in the evolution of a cosmopolitan strain K-6(Panduan)with alround improvement and suited for cultivation both in the *Southern Tinnies* area and Central *Karunganni* tract of the Black soil region of Madras State. It was distributed for general cultivation in the tract during 1956-57 and is spreading in the tract. Further improvement work towards the evolution of still superior strains is also under way for catering to the needs of the tract.

*American Cottons*.—It is to the enterprise and initiative of a few pioneers at Virudhunagar, early in 1905, that we owe the introduction of Cambodia Cotton from Indo-china into this State. The success of Cambodia cotton under irrigation and its adaptability



for being raised as a cold weather or winter-sown crop (*in Puratasi Pattam*) has made it one of the major cash crops of Coimbatore district as also parts of Salem, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai districts. Likewise, the cultivation of Cambodia cotton as an irrigated summer crop (*in Masi Pattam*) owes its origin to some enterprising ryots in Srivilliputtur and Rajapalayam area and dates back to about 1920. From a modest beginning of a few hundred acres, the cultivation of Cambodia cotton in the summer season has now extended to about 75,000 to 80,000 acres in the tankfed rice lands of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Madurai and South Arcot districts as well. The practice of growing two crops of Cotton, viz., one in the winter and the other in summer season of the same year in Madras State is a unique feature peculiar to this State. The cotton grown in the summer season is known in the trade as '*Rajapalayam Uganda*' and is reputed for its excellence and valued very much for spinning higher counts of yarn ranging from 40's to 50 s H.S.C.

In the Summer Cambodia tract of Ramanathapuram extending over nearly 30 to 32 thousand acres, the crop season extends from March to August after the harvest of paddy in the rotation. The seeds are sown broadcast at the rate of 20 to 25 lbs. per acre after one or two ploughing, and covered by working the country plough and irrigated. Normally, the crop receives 8 to 10 irrigations at an interval of 8 to 10 days depending upon the rainfall. By way of after cultivation the crop receives one or two weeding with hand hoes between the second and fourth week after sowing and a *mammatty* hoeing and earthing up when five to seven weeks old. On an average, yields ranging from 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. of *kapas* per acre are obtained depending upon the seasonal conditions. Improved practices have also been recommended by the Department of Agriculture for adoption by the farmers of the Summer Cambodia Cotton.

The early growth and development of cotton in Summer Cambodia Tract is known to owe much to the successive spread into this area of the improved strains evolved by the Agricultural Department for cultivation in the winter season area. The list of strains that were under cultivation in succession in this tract during the different stages in the previous year are as given below :—

| Strains. |    |    |    | Year<br>of<br>extension. | Kapas<br>yield<br>lbs. per<br>acre. | Staple<br>length<br>inch. | Ginning<br>per cent. | H.S.C. |
|----------|----|----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| (1)      |    |    |    | (2)                      | (3)                                 | (4)                       | (5)                  | (6)    |
| Co. 2    | .. | .. | .. | 1930                     | 600                                 | 30/32"                    | 34                   | 34's   |
| 920      | .. | .. | .. | 1936                     | 800                                 | 30/32"                    | 34                   | 34's   |
| Co. 3    | .. | .. | .. | 1940                     | 900                                 | 1"                        | 37                   | 44's   |
| MCU. 1   | .. | .. | .. | 1944                     | 1,000                               | 1-1/32"                   | 34                   | 46's   |

Cambodia cotton was taken up by the Agricultural Department in 1946 when the Long Staple Cotton Scheme was launched at the Agricultural Research Station, Palur in the South Arcot District with a view to evolve long staple cottons of  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and suited, specially for cultivation in the Summer Cambodia tract of Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Madurai districts. Subsequently, the venue of work was shifted to the Cotton Research Farm, Srivilliputtur in 1950, a centre more suited for the breeding work for Long Staple Cottons of superior quality in view of the congenial agro-climatic features obtained here. The above scheme was implemented for a period of 10 years between 1946 and 1956 with full financial assistance of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. As a result of intensive research work carried out under this scheme, a new strain MCU.2 was evolved and released for general cultivation in 1954 in the tract. This strain MCU. 2 now under cultivation in the major area of the tract in this District is very popular with the cotton growers by virtue of its all round superiority to earlier strains. As the best quality cotton available now in India, this strain is the pride of the Research Centre at Srivilliputtur, bringing prosperity to the growers.

The previous work of ten to twelve years at this centre has not only provided ample evidence of fruitfulness of Summer Cambodia tract of Madras State but also indicated the immense potentiality of the breeding materials left over in the long Staple Cotton Scheme for further improvement in response to the demands and opportunities of the tract which is in a state of rapid development. Rightly and fully realising the value and the useful scope of the work at this stage towards further improvement of Summer Cambodia cotton, the Indian Central Cotton Committee sanctioned in 1956, the Extra Long Staple Cotton Scheme now functioning and placed the work of this scheme at this centre on National importance. It is thus one among the three important centres in India chosen for the production of superior quality cotton. The scheme has for its objects the evolution of a strain of *G. hirsutum* with  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " staple and capable of spinning 50's H.S.C. and therefore belongs to the special category of a scheme entitled to get financial assistance in full for a period of 15 years from the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

As a result of intensive breeding work carried out so far under this scheme, new promising strains like E.L. 192 and 0892-B showing definite improvement in quality over MCU.2 while being nearly equal for yield have been evolved and taken to district trials for the first time during 1962 summer season for testing their adaptability to the tract. These trials are to be repeated for two or three more subsequent seasons for deciding definitely the suitability of any one of these for distribution and large scale cultivation in the tract.

Besides, a large volume of useful breeding materials offering scope for all round improvement are undergoing tests in the various stages of trials, under the scheme. Along side, the basic hybrid materials created under an intensive hybridisation programme incorporating

the refined techniques like 'back crossing' and "convergent selection" have accumulated and are available for further exploitation towards improving yields besides combining earliness and *jassid* resistance of the adapted strains while retaining their better quality and ginning per cent. It is for pursuing such breeding work with defined objective on a more elaborate and intensive scale, that the State Government have since sanctioned recently the expansion of the present farm of 5½ acres to 20 - 25 acres with a laboratory. The Indian Central Cotton Committee has provided additional facilities of staff and equipment.

**Seed Multiplication Scheme:**—The scheme of seed multiplication of the American long staple Uganda cotton was introduced in the Srivilliputtur Taluk in 1948. The Department of Agriculture found this Taluk best suited for the multiplication of this variety of cotton. The irrigation facilities, climatic conditions, the soil, etc., of this area are suitable for the cultivation of this strain. Originally the multiplication of MCU.1 cotton seeds was introduced in 1948. But in 1955, the strain MCU.1 cotton was replaced by strain MCU.2 cotton which is admitted to be the best amongst the long staple American Cotton produced in the Indian Union. With the introduction of the improved strain MCU.2 cotton for seed multiplication in this area, the scheme was entrusted to the Srivilliputtur Co-operative Marketing Society. During February 5,51,022 bags of MCU.2 cotton seeds were transferred to the society by the Agricultural Department for distribution to 561 ryots. The particulars of seed farm area, quantity of *kapas* received and seeds procured by the society since 1955 are detailed below:—

| Year. | Number of seed farm ryots. | Number of villages. | Actual area covered by the scheme. | Kapas received in quintals. | Quantity of seed. | Quantity of seeds procured. |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1958  | 583                        | 73                  | 5,226                              | 11,571                      | 10,804            | 8,209                       |
| 1959  | 828                        | 72                  | 5,976                              | 17,337                      | 15,987            | 9,478                       |
| 1960  | 852                        | 66                  | 6,395                              | 12,437                      | 13,598            | 8,012                       |
| 1961  | 749                        | 61                  | 5,579                              | 14,837                      | 15,193            | 6,666                       |
| 1962  | 749                        | 60                  | 6,074                              | 16,375                      | 16,936            | 10,060                      |

**Uppam:**—Uppam variety is grown only to a small extent in the District. In 1960-61, only 1,527 hectares were under this crop. While the crop *Karunganni* yields well in years of good rainfall, Uppam, on the other hand fares better when the rainfall is scanty or ill-distributed.

Cambodia cotton is an exhausting crop. It needs heavy manuring of the field. The manure applied to dry land is about five cartloads per acre, but wet and garden lands are very heavily manured with farmyard manure and salt. The cotton seed is prepared for

sowing by rubbing it with a paste of cowdung and mud so that the frizz clings to the seed. The seed is then dried in the shade. Generally, the seeds are sown in lines 3 feet apart. The distance between the plants in the line, however, depends upon whether the crop is raised pure or mixed, the fertility of the soil, level of manuring and availability of irrigation. The sowing of cotton is timed in accordance with the nature of the preceding crop. If cholam is a preceding crop, cotton is sown early in September and if ragi is the preceding crop, the sowing of cotton is necessarily delayed and the cultivators try to offset the adverse effect on yield by adopting a heavier seed rate and closer planting even upto 3 inches. After sowing, the crop generally needs no attention except occasional weeding till December, when irrigation is necessary in the absence of rains. Arrangements are also made for irrigating the crop at intervals of about 8 to 10 days. The cotton bolls begin to burst early in February. Picking continues till April. A second flush follows in June. The average irrigated yield of Cambodia is 271 lbs. of lint per acre whereas the rain-fed Cambodia crop yields only about 100 to 125 lbs. of lint per acre. The average ginning percentage of cambodia varies from 30 to 35 per cent.

The boll of *Karunganni* begins to burst by the middle of March. Picking goes on till the middle of May. If there are good rains, a second flush follows and picking continues in July or even later. The average yield of *Karunganni* is 100 lbs. of lint per acre. The harvest of uppam begins 2 or 3 weeks later than *Karunganni*. Uppam does not give a second flush. The average yield in normal season is 65 lbs. of lint per acre. After harvesting is over generally the picking is dried in sun and stored in a dry place. The farmer disposes of the picking by conveying them on to a ginning factory or selling them out to a local dealer who calls for it.

The cotton of the District is usually ginned in the District itself at places like Virudhunagar, Sattur and Rajapalayam.

*Drugs and Narcotics*:—Drugs and narcotics are raised in the District only to a small extent. In 1960-61, an area of 275 hectares (679 acres) were under drugs and narcotics, against the normal area of 401 hectares or 990 acres. The following are the important drugs and narcotics grown in the District :—

| Crop.            | Area in 1960-61. |              | Normal area. |              |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                  | In acres.        | In hectares. | In acres.    | In hectares. |
| Cinchona .. ..   | 39               | 16           | ..           | ..           |
| Senna .. ..      | ..               | ..           | 30           | 12           |
| Betelvines .. .. | 501              | 203          | 430          | 174          |
| Tobacco .. ..    | 138              | 56           | 390          | 158          |

Betelvine is the major crop grown in the District under the classification of drugs and narcotics. The cultivation of this creeper requires a great deal of care and attention. This is a highly specialized crop and is generally in the hands of persons who possess a special knowledge of it. The vines are grown from stump cuttings 8 to 12 inches in length. The vines grow fast and send out many shoots. The pickings are generally done once a week. The varieties of betelvine grown in the District are *Karpooram*, and *Nattuvethilai*. The *Karpooram* variety is tender, light, and small in size. The other variety *Nattuvethilai* is slightly dark in colour and large in size. In the District large areas under betelvine are found in the taluks of Sivaganga, Sattur and Ramanathapuram.

Tobacco is another important narcotic group in the District. It is grown in the Sattur Taluk largely. It is a transplanted crop. The nurseries are raised in well-drained fertile soils and in low water table, commanding good irrigation. Transplanting of tobacco seedlings is taken up generally after soaking them in rain or in water. Usually the spacing of planting ranges from 1 to 3 feet depending upon the type of soil. Furrows are made to form parallelograms with sides  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet apart. Cattle manure is generally used. Tobacco seedlings are removed carefully from the nursery and transplanted at the corner of parallelogram, two together. The weaker of the seedlings is removed at a later stage. After transplanting, the plants are watered thrice a day for about 3 days until the plants establish themselves. The methods of harvesting the leaves depend upon whether the tobacco is used for making beedi, cigarette, or cigar or for producing snuff. In the case of selected tobacco, mature leaves are cut when they are yellowish in colour. The leaves usually cut in the evenings are stored in the barn till next day morning and are allowed to dry in air overnight. The cure of the leaves are done in specially constructed structures where the temperature is adjusted in an appropriate way in order to produce the best colour. The tobacco leaves that are dried in the sun are cured periodically by spraying over the heaped leaves a solution of gur and myrobalan till the leaves develop a complete dark reddish colour.

*Agricultural practice of the District:*—Generally speaking, the agricultural practice of the District does not present any peculiar feature. As in other districts, it follows the seasonal conditions. The major portion of the arable area is dry land. Manuring is done before ploughing and sowing or transplantation as the case may be. Manure is almost invariably applied to wet and garden lands and rarely to dry lands. Black soils are better manured than red soils. The manures used generally consist of cattle dung, house sweepings, ashes, tank silt and green shrubs; groundnut cakes and fish manures are also used on a normal scale and bone meal and pigs' dung are being tried on wet lands in parts of Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks. Cattle and sheep penning is done on lands which are considered to need special manuring. *Kolin j*

*Avarei*, *Lab-lab* and *Virali* are the green manures commonly used. *Daincha* is also becoming popular in certain areas as it is found suitable for use in reclaiming saline soils. It is also used as green feed for cattle during the summer months. The use of other manures such as oil-cakes, phosphatic manures and fertilisers are also becoming popular among the ryots of the District. Country ploughs are used commonly for ploughing. They are relatively of a larger size for the black cotton area of Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukkottai taluks. Black soils are ploughed deeper and oftener than red soils, the former about five times and the latter three times. Sowing is done by hand. The improved iron mould board ploughs and the drill set for the sowing of cotton and cumbu in ones are also becoming popular in the District.

Generally speaking, the months of September to December are busy months for sowing in the District. The period August-September (corresponding to the Tamil month of *Adi*) is considered as the best season for sowing dry crops, but the actual sowings are regulated by the seasonal conditions of the particular year.

The District mainly depends upon seasonal rains for agriculture. The summer showers of February, March or April bring in fresh supplies to the irrigation tanks. These supplies and the rains are taken advantage of to grow short crops or second-crop paddy on wet lands called *Kodai* or *Kar* cultivation and the *Masipattam* crops of gingili and cotton. These are harvested between June and August. The early showers of the south-west monsoon prop up these crops and are useful for ploughing the lands not occupied by crops. The lands in black-cotton areas get frequent ploughings after each rain in these months and the ground thus prepared becomes a good soil for subsequent sowings. With the early rains of August the main sowings called *Adipattam* cultivation begin on dry lands. This is considered to be the best sowing for yielding a good crop in due time under other normal conditions. The south-west monsoon does not however benefit the coastal and eastern taluks of the District appreciably. The rains in this season, are useful only for ploughing and the actual sowings are therefore postponed to the months of September-December. The soil in this area being sandy or redloam or a mixture of both is better fitted to withstand the rain of winter than the other kinds of soil and therefore the dry crops and the unirrigated paddy sown in this season prosper well under normal conditions. The main wet cultivation begins only after October when with the breaking of the north-east monsoon the tanks begin to have supplies. The *Kalam* paddy otherwise called *pi hasam* crop is raised during this month. The ryots eagerly look for light rains in January to help these crops to put forth the good ears of cotton. For a first-rate season there should be some rain in almost every month and this is specially so in this tract which is unaided by the other natural facilities conducive to successful agriculture.<sup>1</sup> The area under

<sup>1</sup> Government of Madras : A Statistical Atlas of Madras province (1940-41 949, pp. 768-781.

second-crop cultivation is not large in the District. The net area sown in the district in 1960-61 was 1,440,071 acres or 582,777 hectares. The area sown more than once in the District during the same period was 117,471 acres or 47,538 hectares only.

*Agricultural seasons:*<sup>1</sup>—The main season for agriculture in the district is September-October for almost all crops. The following are, however, the exceptions :—

- (a) January-March—Second crop paddy and Irrigated cotton.
- (b) Irrigated groundnut is raised throughout the year.
- (c) March-May—Irrigated cholam and summer ragi.
- (d) December-January—Chillies and gingili.

*Types of crops grown in the District:*<sup>1</sup>—The following are the important types of crops grown in the District :—

|           |    |    |    |   |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|
| Paddy     | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated and semi-dry.                 |
| Cholam    | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated for grain and dry for fodder. |
| Ragi      | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated.                              |
| Cumbu     | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated and dry.                      |
| Cotton    | .. | .. | .. | Do.                                     |
| Sugarcane | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated.                              |
| Cocconut  | .. | .. | .. | Do.                                     |
| Groundnut | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated and dry.                      |
| Gingili   | .. | .. | .. | Do.                                     |
| Castor    | .. | .. | .. | Do.                                     |
| Chillies  | .. | .. | .. | Irrigated.                              |

*Irrigation:*—The District has no perennial source of water-supply either by way of supplies from rivers or from big storage reservoirs. The chief irrigation sources are the *Vaigai*, the *Vaippar* and the *Arjunanadhi*, besides a few hill streams and a large number of rain-fed tanks. Wells are also to a considerable extent used for irrigation.

The total net area irrigated in the district in 1960-61 was 642,648 acres or 260,072 hectares. The percentage of net area irrigated to the net area sown works out to 44.6. The following table shows the area irrigated by the various sources of irrigation<sup>1</sup>.

| Source of irrigation.                        |    |    |    |    |    |    | Net area irrigated. |           |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------------|-----------|
|  |    |    |    |    |    |    | Acres.              | Hectares. |
| (1)  |    |    |    |    |    |    | (2)                 | (3)       |
| Government canals                            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,053               | 429       |
| Private canals                               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,71,893            | 2,31,401  |
| Tanks  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |                     |           |
| Wells—                                       |    |    |    |    |    |    |                     |           |
| Tube-wells —                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    |                     |           |
| Solo irrigation                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 69,579              | 28,158    |
| Other sources (i.e., spring, channels, etc.) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 207                 | 84        |
| Total  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 642,648             | 260,072   |

<sup>1</sup>. Source : Director of Agriculture, Madras.

<sup>2</sup>. Source : Season and Crop Report for the year 1960-61 *op.cit.* pp. 31-33.

From the table above it may be seen that the major source of irrigation in the district is tanks, and the next source in order of importance is wells. The area irrigated by canals is considerably low and that irrigated by 'other sources' is negligible.

#### THE RIVERS, STREAMS AND CANALS.

Rivers, *Vaigai*, *Gundar*, *Manimuthar*, *Palar*, *Vaippar*, and *Arjunanadhi* traverse the plains of the district. Except the river *Vaigai*, which gets some summer inflow, the remaining rivers are benefited only by the North-East Monsoon and maximum floods occur during November, which is the peak irrigation period in the District. These rivers and streams feed a number of tanks

*Canals*:—A number of canals take off from the rivers *Vaigai*, *Manimuthar*, *Gundar*, etc. These feed several tanks all along their course. But no control exists at the head of these canals. During rainy seasons, ryots throw cross bunds or *Korambu* as they call it, in the parent stream to hold up water before it could be led into channels. This irrigation practice has been in vogue since a very long time. Most of the channels have silted up and require deepening, widening and renovation. Over the years some have lost their identity and it has become difficult to distinguish them on ground.

#### THE RIVERS, STREAMS AND CANALS DESCRIBED:

The *Vaigai* enters from the Madurai Taluk into Sivaganga Taluk of the Ramanathapuram district. It flows through Manalur, Tiuppachetti and Manamadurai in that taluk, into the Paramagudi taluk and flows past Partibanur, Emaneswaram and Paramagudi. It then flows into the Ramanathapuram Taluk. It is finally dammed by a big masonry dam surmounted with falling shutters to fill the Ramanathapuram Big Tank. The surplus of this tank as well as the surplus from this anicut empties into the Palk Passage near Alangulam to the south of Devipatnam.

There are about 96 canals which take off from the river *Vaigai*. The river fills about 374 tanks with a total ayacut of 108,562 acres in the Sivaganga, Paramagudi, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks of the District.

There are three big channels known as the upper Nattar Kal, the Lower Nattar Kal and the Kalari Kal.

The Upper Nattar Kal takes off from the *Vaigai* on its left flank near Konnappenendal (Paramagudi Taluk). It is 20 miles long and feeds a number of tanks and finally falls into the Ariyakotta Tank (Tiruvadanai Taluk).

The Lower Nattar Kal also takes from the left of the river and enters the right flank end of the Rajasingamangalam Taluk.



The Kalari Kal takes off on the right and after feeding a number of tanks on the way, feeds the Kalari Tank near Utharakosamangai in the Ramanathapuram Taluk.

There is a scheme under the Third Five-Year Plan for modernising the *Vaigai* channels at an estimated cost of Rs. 263 lakhs. Most of the channels from the *Vaigai* have no head sluices. The open heads permit an uncontrolled flow into the channels often causing breeches. There is no regulation of supplies according to the extents irrigated by the channels or according to the demand. The tanks which were in the old Zamindari arcas were not kept upto standards. There are no sluices or surplus works for them. Consequently the irrigation in the lower reaches of the river suffers badly and there is a gap of about 20,000 acres in cultivation. Under the proposed scheme, the channels are to be modernised and the tanks restored to standard.

Under the scheme, it is proposed to construct two anicuts one at Tiruppuvanam and another at Paramagudi and a regulator at Parthipanur. Channels will be excavated on either side of the anicuts and the regulator and the several existing channels will be served through new head sluices. The scheme will not only assure equitable and adequate supply to all the existing channels and tanks but will also result in saving of large transmission losses through the wide sandy bed of the *Vaigai* river, and the waters so served will be very useful for the *ayacut* in the lower reaches. By the proposed scheme, a gap of 20,000 acres will be bridged and assured supply will be made to the existing *ayacut*. By bringing the gap and establishing the existing *ayacut*, the extra food production that may be achieved may be about 19,400 tons.

*Other Rivers:*—The other rivers are capricious and uncertain ; though extremely violent at times they are rarely in flood for more than a few days at a time. They feed many irrigation tanks and the water that they supply is fully utilised. The best irrigation sources are the *Vaipar*, the *Arjunanadhi* and the *Nikshapanadhi*.

*The Pambar :*—The *Pambar* formed by the surplus flows of tanks in Pudukkottai flows through the Tiruppattur and Tiruvadanai taluks. It then flows along the boundary of Arantangi Taluk (of Thanjavur District) with the Tiruvadanai Taluk and falls into Palk Bay.

*The Tirumanimuthar.*—This is a small and uncertain stream. It rises in the Melur Taluk of the Madurai District and attains greater importance in the lower reaches. It flows eastwards and enters the Tiruppattur Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District and flows past Tirukoshtiyur. It receives the *Palar* on the right and enters the Tiruvadanai Taluk and falls near Vattanam into the Bay of Bengal.

Its supply channels feed the Iriyur Tank in the Tirupattur Taluk. It is known as the *Virusslaiyur* in the lower part of its course in the Tiruvadanai taluk.

*The Palar*:—The Palar is a hill stream which rises near Ayyalur in the Tiruchirappalli district. It flows through the Pudukkottai region of the Tirupattur Taluk and falls into the *Manimuthar* on the left at Kallupatti.

*The Sarugani*:—The Sarugani rises in the northern corner of the Sivaganga Taluk and flows through this Taluk into the southern portion of the Tirupattur Taluk. It then flows for a short distance along the boundary of Tiruvadanai and Sivaganga taluks and flows through the Tiruvadanai Taluk and falls into the sea at Annakudi.

A channel taking off from it on the right feeds the Rajasingamangalam Tank at its left flank.

*The Gundar*:—The Gundar rises just north-west of Aruppukkottai in the Madurai district and flows south eastwards from the Tirumangalam Taluk of the Madurai district into the Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District and ends in the Sayalkudi Tank, the surplus of which flows into the gulf of Manar, four miles to the south of Sayalkudi. It gets the drainage of a number of tanks of the Aruppukkottai Taluk and its supply channels feed 15 tanks including the Kamudi Tank. The supply channel of this tank is known as the Gundar channel ; it takes above the anicut at Kamudi and feeds a chain of tanks and ultimately falls into the Kalari tank in the Ramanathapuram Taluk. The Kalari Tank is also fed by a channel from the *Vaigai*.

A channel known as the *Narayana Cauvery* takes off from the river two miles above Tiruchuli and runs south eastwards almost parallel to the main river. Its channels feed a number of tanks in the Paramagudi and Mudukulattur taluks.

The first five miles of this channel are not even traceable on the ground as it has been encroached upon and cultivated by ryots. The existing *Narayana Cauvery* channel has been drawing water only from an earthen bund across the *Sokkan Odai* with which it joins. This bund gets washed off during the floods.

The *Sokkan Odai* falls two miles lower down into the river just above the off-take of the Mandalamanicam Supply Channel which exclusively feeds the Mandalamanicam tank.

*The Gridhamal*:—The Gridhamal rises near Nagamalai hills about five miles west of Madurai. It runs through the Madurai Town, Sivaganga and Aruppukkottai taluks and joins the Gundar in the Mudukulattur taluk.

It carries the drainage of the upper reaches of the *Vaigai* but does not touch it at any place. It feeds some tanks in Sivaganga Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur Taluks.

*The Vaippar*:—The Vaippar formed by the drainage of 5 small rivers including the *Nikshapanadi* in the Vaipar basin in Sankarankoil Taluk and the drainage of a large part of Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks, enters the Tirunelveli District, and the Sattur Taluk of this District. About 14 miles to the east of Sattur, it re-enters the Koilpatti Taluk of the Tirunelveli district and falls into the sea at Vaippar in that District.

It receives practically no benefit from the North-East Monsoons. It is subject to tumultuous floods and in the greater part of the year its bed is completely dry. It feeds a number of tanks, including a major tank, the Nenmeni Tank.

*The Arjunanadhi*:—The Arjunanadhi has its source at the foot of the ghats. It flows through the Srivilliputtur and the Sattur taluks and falls into a tributary of the *Vaippar*. It also feeds a number of tanks.

#### DAMS.

*The Periyar System*:—The *Periyar* river has its origin on the western slope of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 5,000 feet above M.S.L., and flows westwards to the Arabian Sea. A masonry Dam 2,095 feet long and 155 feet high was constructed in 1893 across this river in the erstwhile Travancore State limits at an elevation of 3,000 feet so as to form a reservoir. The water thus impounded was diverted into the river *Vaigai* through a foreshore cutting and a mile long tunnel into the plains of the Madurai District on the eastern side of the Ghats. The water so diverted is picked up at a regulator across the *Vaigai* near Peranai, 24 miles from Madurai. The Periyar main canal and irrigation channels taking off from this regulator form the Periyar irrigation system and benefit an extent of about 150,000 acres in the districts of Madurai and Ramanathapuram.

However, the above achievement was not sufficient to the ever growing needs in the agricultural and industrial sphere. It was found that the entire run off from the *Periyar* catchment was not tapped for utilisation by the Periyar Dam. There was still surplus water to an average ranging from 273 m. cft. to 37,253 m.cft. overflowing the Periyar Dam, going waste into the Arabian Sea. Moreover, the long great fall of 1,200 feet below the exit of the mile long tunnel in the foreshore of the Periyar lake attracted attention for generation of power.

Investigations were therefore carried out for the assessment of the surplus water and also for a power project for utilising the great fall. After prolonged negotiations with the Government

of the erstwhile Travancore State, the Periyar Hydro-Electric Project took concrete shape. It was sanctioned for execution by the Government of Madras in 1954. Under this scheme the existing irrigation tunnel of 5,887 ft. in length was widened from 92 sq. ft. to 152 sq. ft. of cross sectional area, a forebay dam at the exit of this tunnel was constructed and another power tunnel 4,188 ft. long with a cross section of 150 sq. ft. and with a discharging capacity of 1,600 cusecs, was also constructed. This power tunnel enters the surge shaft from there penstock pipes take off with a capacity of 400 cusecs each. However, now only three penstock pipes have been installed and provision has been made for the installation of a fourth one later on. The head available for power development is 1,263 ft. and the total installed capacity in the ultimate stage as envisaged will be 150 M.W. Thus the water will be drawn from the Periyar Lake throughout the year for power purposes instead of during only nine months for irrigation purposes as done hitherto. A subsidiary reservoir was therefore found necessary to impound and store the tail race water during the non-irrigation season. This reservoir will also be helpful to store the surpluses that occur at Periyar Lake during the monsoon. This necessitated the construction of the present Vaigai Reservoir not only to help towards the successful working of the Periyar Hydro-Electric Project but also to bring in new areas under irrigation. In addition, the reservoir is designed to store to the extent possible the surpluses of the *Vaigai* that go waste into the sea for the benefit of the existing *Vaigai* ayacut in the Ramanathapuram District which is about 1,14,000 acres.

#### THE VAIGAI SYSTEM:

*Vaigai* is the legendary river of the Pandyan kings and for ages its waters were extensively used for irrigation in the Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts. By itself, its flows are poor but the off season power flows from the Periyar lake lends it a new value for service. The *Vaigai* has its source in the Western Ghats on the eastern slope at an altitude of 5,000 feet above M.S.L. and in a valley next to Vairavanar Valley into which the waters of the Periyar lake flow through the foreshore tunnel. After traversing about 40 miles in thick forest and carrying in its wake tributaries such as *Palar*, *Koraliar* etc., it enters the plains before joining the *Suruliar* which, in its higher reaches, is joined by the *Vairavanar* carrying the *Periar* Lake waters. After receiving the tributary *Suruliar* and then *Theniar*, the *Vaigai* river reaches the dam site running about 8 miles from the confluence of the *Suruliar*.

The present *Vaigai* dam (1959) is the outcome and it is set in an excellent way to get the most out of the waters of both *Vaigai* and *Periyar* at all times. The Dam across the river *Vaigai* completed in the year 1959 is located at a place about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Andipatty Railway Station in Madurai-Bodinaickanur Railway line and about 6 miles as the crow flies South-east of Periyakulam

Town in the Madurai District. The site is about 40 miles west of Madurai City. It is connected by regular public buses both from Andipatty and Periyakulam. Below the dam site, the *Vaigai* river runs about 20 miles before the Peranai Regulator across the *Vaigai* is reached. At this Peranai Regulator, the Periyar Irrigation system main canal takes off to irrigate an area of 1,50,000 acres. Below this regulator the *Vaigai* river irrigates about 1,14,000 acres through numerous tanks served by inundation channels taking off from the *Vaigai* through open heads. The river finally empties into the Ramanathapuram Big Tank and the Palk Bay.

*Scope and Cost of the Project:*—Along with this lake goes a new canal, 17½ miles long and some extensions to the Periyar System, both serving some 22,800 acres in an otherwise dry area. Incidental to the scheme but no less vital to the area is the assured supply to over 1,28,000 acres of old irrigation as well as water supply to the Temple City of Madurai. The following details about the Dam may be of interest:—

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Length of the Dam ..            | 11,675 ft.        |
| Maximum height ..               | 111 ft.           |
| Full reservoir level ..         | 916 (plus) (MSL). |
| Gross capacity ..               | 6,878 m. cft.     |
| Length of Tirumangalam Canal .. | 17½ miles.        |
| Area irrigated .. ..            | 22,818 acres.     |
| Old Vaigai ayaout stabilised .. | 1,28,000 acres.   |

The Reservoir will impound the water thus drawn through the Periyar lake during the summer months about 4,000 Mcft. and also the flood water of the *Vaigai* river about 2,800 Mcft. when it goes to waste and then issue for irrigation of the Periyar Delta and for the ayacut of the *Vaigai* river respectively. In addition to the above, 20,384 acres of new areas comprising of (1) 10,384 acres in Tirumangalam Taluk for raising a short crop, (2) 7,000 acres in the Sivaganga Taluk for raising a long crop and (3) 3,000 acres of hard cases in the existing Periyar Delta, will be brought under irrigation.

The area in the Tirumangalam Taluk is irrigated by a new canal designed for a length of 17 miles and 6 furlongs. The area in the Sivaganga Taluk will be served by improving the existing *Shield's Kals* and *Lessees' Kals*.

*Tanks:*—The District may aptly be described as “The Land of Tanks”. There are 3,824 irrigation tanks in the District. Of these, 1,768 tanks are with *ayacuts* of 100 acres or more and the rest (2,056) of the tanks have *ayacuts* of less than 100 acres<sup>1</sup>. The topography of the District is well suited for the construction of large number of tanks. The irrigation system in the District

<sup>1</sup> Season and Crop Report for the year 1960-61 *Op. cit.*

consists of a number of minor tanks fed partly from their independent catchment and partly from the diversion of river waters and jungle streams through canals.

A special feature of the tanks in the District is their construction in series. The surplus water escaping over the weir from one tank feeds the tank lower down and so on. Not only the surplus water escapes into it but the irrigation water from the fields under the upper tank, also flows into the lower tank. The "tanks in series" have both advantages and disadvantages. The one advantage is the residual water after irrigation, which would otherwise go waste, finds its way into the lower tank. The main disadvantage of the tanks in series is the breaching of the whole system during heavy rains. If due to excessive floods any tank in the chain breaches, the tank lower down is unable to bear the strain of the rushing waters from above and it also breaches. This continues on and the whole system downstream of the first breached tank breaches. The tanks in old Zamindari area were by and large the property of the Zamindars. The tanks being the property of the Zamindars, the cultivators were not directly interested in their proper-up-keep and maintenances. Also since the Zamindars did not have any direct interests of cultivation they also did not pay much attention to their maintenance. Consequently the irrigation works deteriorated and eventually some went out of use completely. Neither the then Government nor the Zamindars in the past paid any real attention to these works. Therefore on the eve of the first Five-Year Plan period, the Government immediately took up the question of restoring the tanks.

*The Ramanathapuram Big Tank :—*(Ramanathapuram Taluk) : Into this tank the Vaigai empties itself. It has 8 Irrigation sources with a total ayacut of 4,500 acres. It surpluses through (i) a weir 585½ feet long with 45 falling shutters 2' high (ii) a combined weir and Calingula 1,013 feet long with 21 vents of 4' width with sill at 2' below F.T.L., (iii) surplus sluices of 11 vents with sill 8.2' below F.T.L., at left flank and (iv) a nine vented surplus 7.38' below F.T.L.

The surplus at the left flank flows into the sea. The surpluses from the right flank flow into the Sakkarai-kottai Tank.

*Rajasingamangalam Tank—* (Tiruvadanai Taluk):—It is twenty one miles from Ramanathapuram and receives, supplies from the *Lower Nattar Kal* which takes off from the *Vaigai* at its right flank and a supply channel from the *Sarugani* at the left flank. It is one of the biggest tanks in the District. Its bund is 13 miles long and has two masonry weirs at either flank. It has got 19 sluices and irrigates 4,500 acres. Its bunds have been strengthened and the sluices have been repaired at a cost of Rs. 26,000.

*Marnad Tank*:- (Sivaganga Taluk):- It is three miles south of Tiruppachetty. It is one of the biggest tanks in the District. It is fed by supply channels from the *Vaigai* and has a registered ayacut of 5,000 acres. It had not been repaired for the last 20 years and the bund was in a precarious condition. The actual cultivation was only about 4,500 acres. The bund has been recently repaired at a cost of Rs. 14,000.

*Kattikulam Periyar Eri*:- (Sivaganga Taluk) :-It is a mile from the Muthanendal Railway Station. It has a bund four miles in length. It receives supplies from a *Vaigai* channel and has anayacut of 3,900 acres, of which only 3,800 were being cultivated on an average. It has been repaired at a cost of Rs. 18,000 the entire ayacut is being successfully cultivated.

*Emeneswaram Tank*—(Paramagudi Taluk) :-It is a mile north of Paramagudi on the other side of the *Vaigai* and receives part of its supplies from a channel from the *Vaigai*. It is 3 miles long and has a registered ayacut of 2,579 acres. Its bund has been strengthened and provided with shutters to the vented outlets at a cost of Rs. 17,000.

*Katari Tank*—(Ramanathapuram Taluk):—It is five miles south of Ramanathapuram Tank. It receives part of its supplies from the river *Vaigai* and the other part from the *Gundar*. It has a registered ayacut of 2,086 acres. Its bund has been repaired and some minor repairs have been done at a cost of Rs. 11,300.

*Nettur Tank*—(Sivaganga Taluk): It is eight miles south of Manamadurai and is fed by supply channels from the *Vaigai* and has an ayacut of 2,021 acres. The tank bund and two of its sluices have been repaired.

*Sakkaraikottai Tank*—(Ramanathapuram Taluk):—It is just south of Ramanathapuram Tank and has a registered ayacut of 1,462 acres. Its bund has been strengthened, the breaches closed and the sluices repaired at a cost of Rs. 27,340.

*Kanur Tank*—(Sivaganga Taluk):—It has an ayacut of 1,329 acres. An estimate of Rs. 38,200 was sanctioned for constructing a head sluice of 3 vents of 5' + 4' with screw gearing shutters in double tiers to control the supply to the channel at times of high floods, thereby protecting the supply channel and the tank. It was expected to benefit an extent of 600 acres under Kanur and other tanks.

*Trunjarai Tank* (Aruppukkottai Taluk : It is ten miles north west of Parthibanur and is fed by a supply channel from the left bank of the Gridhamal Nadi (a tributary of the *Gundar*) and has a registered ayacut of 1,251 acres. It has been repaired.

*Kambukudi Tank*—(Mudukulattur Taluk):- It is supplied from a channel from the masonry anicut across the *Gundar* and has an ayacut of 1,250 acres under 7 masonry sluices. Its channels have been deepened; the bund has been strengthened to standards and a new weir has been built at a cost of Rs.63,440.

*Parthibanur Tank*—(Paramagudi Taluk):—It is ten miles from Paramagudi and gets its supplies from channels which take off directly from the *Vaigai* and has a registered ayacut of 1,242 acres. Its bund has been strengthened and sluices repaired at cost of Rs.17,000

*Melaiyu Tank*—(Paramagudi Taluk): It is three miles north-west of Ilayangudi and gets part of its supplies from a supply channel branching off from the Salaigramam channel which takes off from the *Vaigai*. Its bund has been strengthened and the repairs also done to the high weir and construction of 3 new sluices has been also completed.

*Anikulam Tank*—(Aruppukkottai Taluk):—It has a registered ayacut of 1,223 acres. Its bund has been strengthened and the sluices and surplus weir has been repaired at a cost of Rs.22,050.

*Ilayangudi Tank*—(Paramagudi Taluk):—It is seven miles from Paramagudi and has a registered ayacut of 1,067 acres. It receives supplies from the Salaigramam supply channel, the *Vaigai* and from the surpluses of Nettur Tank. Its bund has been strengthened and the sluices repaired at a cost of Rs.13,500.

*Uruvatti Tank*—(Tiruvadanai Taluk):—It is two miles south of Sarugani and receives part of its supplies from the Sarugani river. The repairs to its bund and sluices have been taken up on an estimate of Rs.67,000 and the work is in progress.

*Piramanur Tank*—(Sivaganga Taluk):—It is five miles south of Tiruppuvanam and receives supplies from a channel from the *Vaigai*. Its sluices have been repaired to enable it to hold water to its full capacity.

*Minor Irrigation Tanks*:—There are 5,016 Minor Irrigation Tanks in this District, of which 273 are in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks and the remaining in the other taluks of the ex-zamindari area. Most of the tanks are rain fed.

*Wells*:—There were in the District in 1960-61, 30,365 wells used for irrigation purposes only. Of this 100 (Masonry 3, and Non-masonry 97) were Government tanks and 30,265 (Masonry 29,721 and Non-masonry 544) were private tanks. Besides these, there were 1,541 wells used for domestic purposes only. 6,038 wells were not in use during the same period. There were 67 tube wells in the District. The 30,365 wells in the District irrigated an area of 28,158 hectares or 69,579 acres of land, which were solely dependent on well irrigation. Besides this, an area of 9,994 hectares or 24,696 acres of land were also under well irrigation, supplementing recognized sources of irrigation. The number of wells supplementing recognized sources of irrigation was 7,366. There were also 22,999 wells having independent ayacuts. The percentage of area irrigated by wells having independent ayacuts to the total net area irrigated in the District during the same period worked out to 10.8 per cent.



The Srivilliputhur Taluk has the largest number of wells used for irrigation.

#### FOOD PRODUCTION DRIVE AND IMPROVEMENT OF IRRIGATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

Never before in the history of irrigation in the District, has Government attention been so much focussed on the improvement of irrigation sources, as it was with in the first two Plan periods. With the advent of the *Grow More Food Campaign* in the State, a Division was formed at Sivaganga in the year 1949-50 for carrying out repairs and improvements to all the irrigation sources in the District.

At the time of taking over of the two major estates in the District, it was found that most of the tanks were in neglected condition. The need for renovation of these tanks were keenly felt. Upto the end of 1955 repair works costing Rs. 91.57 lakhs were taken up and 635 works were completed at a cost of Rs.44.41 lakhs. Sources taken up before April, 1953 were classified as "Tank Improvements. Scheme Works", while those taken up later were termed "Special Minor Irrigation Programme Works". During the year 1956, the Sivaganga Division was attached to the Special Public Works Department circle to renovate all the tanks which breached during the unprecedented floods in 1955 to bring the affected sources to pre-cyclonic condition.

After the tanks were restored, the regular Food Production Division at Sivaganga was revived in November 1957 to renovate the tanks to *T.R.S. Standards*. Initially the activities of the Division were confined to the Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks. In February 1958, the Special Minor Irrigation Programme was extended to the entire District. Subsequently, taking into consideration the large number of ex-zamin sources to be tackled, another Division was formed at Devakottai in March 1959 with jurisdiction over, Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram, Tiruppattur and Thiruvadanai taluks. Jurisdiction of the Sivaganga Division was revised to include Sivaganga, Mudukulattur, Aruppukkottai Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. Subsequently in 1961, the Special Minor Irrigation Programme works in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks were handed over to the Public Works Department. Hence the present Sivaganga Division has jurisdiction over Sivaganga, Mudukulattur and Aruppukkottai taluks only.

*The activities of the Food Production Division are:—*

1. Investigation of Irrigation sources,
2. Grouping of tanks and fixing up bas n,
3. Execution of special repairs to sources,
4. Investigation of schemes, and
5. Maintenance of major sources.

At first detailed investigation of the tanks under question is done to fix up proper full tank level that could irrigate the full registered ayacut without undue foreshore submersion. Proper standards are suggested for the bund and masonry sluices and weir are also proposed.

Fixing up the flood discharge by proper grouping of tanks is also done and suitable weirs are suggested and estimates prepared.

Based on the proposals, the tanks are restored to the designed standards. The field work consists mainly of earthwork to bund, construction of sluices and weirs.

Basin-wise studies are also conducted and various schemes are put up for economic utilisation of the various streams in the District.

In addition to the Special Repair works mentioned above, all the maintenance works in respect of major tanks with ayacut of over 200 acres in the taluks are also being attended to by the Food Production Divisions.

The taluk-wise and basin-wise details of works completed and the schemes in progress in the *Sivaganga Food Production Division* are detailed below:

#### SIVAGANGA FOOD PRODUCTION DIVISION.

*Sivaganga Taluk*:—The main rivers in this Taluk are the *Vaigai* and *Uppar*. There are 74 major tanks with a total ayacut of 45,279 acres and 1,456 minor tanks with an ayacut of 93,546 acres. So far 365 tank works have been completed at a cost of Rs. 37·87 lakhs.

*River Vaigai*:—There are 32 Supply Channels taking off from River Vaigai and 73 tanks fed by this channels. Against the 73 tanks, works on 40 have been so far completed.

*River Uppar*:—Two schemes have been proposed on this stream, the *Pillur* and *Seikalathur*. The *Pillur* Anicut Scheme is in progress. This scheme is to benefit 1,348·10 acres at a cost of Rs. 1·99 lakhs. About 10 miles down stream of the *Pillur* Anicut Scheme is the *Seikalathur* Scheme designed to benefit 2,186·81 acres and the cost of the scheme is Rs. 8·00 lakhs. This scheme is under investigation.

*River Gridamal*:—Three schemes have been proposed on the *Gridamal*, one in the *Sivaganga Taluk* and the other two in the *Mudukulattur Taluk*. The scheme proposed to the *Sivaganga Taluk* is the *Kattanur Anicut Scheme*. It is proposed to benefit 3,330·52 acres at a cost of Rs. 5·50 lakhs.

*Periyar System*:—There are about 30 tanks fed by the *Periyar* system through supply channels. Out of this, 17 tanks were investigated, 11 tanks are in progress and two tanks are under investigation. Repairs to supply channels are being attended to by the *Vaigai-Periyar Canal Division*.

### MUDUKULATTUR TALUK:

The main rivers in this Taluk are Paralaiyar, Gridamal and Gundar. There are 42 major tanks with an ayacut of 16,426 acres and 486 minor tanks with an ayacut of 17,603 acres. So far 188 works have been completed at a cost of Rs. 16.63 lakhs.

*Parlaiyar Basin*:—An outlet at a cost of Rs. 3.91 lakhs is under construction at the entrance of Gundar channel. Only one scheme is to be taken up for investigation at the off take of *Keelathooval* supply channel which is proposed to benefit 2,200 acres. The cost of the scheme is Rs. 8.00 lakhs.

*Gridamal Basin*:—In the Mudukulattur Taluk two schemes have been proposed, the Kallikulam Anicut scheme and Abiramam Anicut scheme. The Kallikulam Anicut Scheme will benefit 1,030.56 acres at a cost of Rs. 2.58 lakhs. The work on the Abiramam Anicut scheme which feeds the Abiramam Tank has been completed. The scheme benefits the Abiramam Tank with an ayacut of 1,092.57 acres. The cost of the scheme is Rs. 1.11 lakhs.

The *Gridamal* falls into the Raghunatha Cauvery and a suitable outlet at the crossing has been provided at a cost of Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

*Gundar Basin*:—Four schemes are proposed on the river Gundar, two in the Mudukulattur Taluk and two in the Arupukkottai Taluk. In Mudukulattur, the schemes proposed are: (1) The Narayana Cauvery Scheme and (2) The Raghunatha Cauvery Scheme.

The Narayana Cauvery Scheme consists of (1) the construction of an anicut at the head of Mandalamanickam Supply Channel and (2) the excavation of supply channels to feed a series of tanks. Excavation of channels below the Kamudi Arupukkottai Road is in progress. This scheme is expected to benefit 3,287.86 acres and to cost Rs. 10.25 lakhs.

The Raghunatha Cauvery Scheme consisting of renovation of the existing channel with necessary outlets have been taken up and are in various stages of progress. This scheme is to benefit 4,969.58 acres and to cost Rs. 27.73 lakhs.

### ARUPPUKOTTAI TALUK:

The main rivers in the Taluk are (1) *Terkar* and (2) *Goundanathi*. There are 38 major tanks with an ayacut of 18,990 acres and 492 minor tanks with an ayacut of 35,916 acres. So far work on 91 tanks have been completed at a cost of Rs. 18.66 lakhs.

*Goundanadhi*:—An anicut near Sevalpatty village (*Mallanginar Scheme*) is proposed at a cost of Rs. 7 lakhs to benefit 1,116.84 acres.

**Therkar River:**—An anicut has been proposed near Kariapatty to feed the Chatrapuliankulam Tank. The work is in progress. It is expected to benefit 510.45 acres and to cost Rs. 1.15 lakhs.

**DEVAKOTTAI FOOD PRODUCTION DIVISION.**

As already observed, this Food Production Division with one Executive Engineer at Devakottai was formed in March 1959 with jurisdiction over Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram Tiruppattur, and Tiruvadanai taluks. The following works were undertaken by this Division. (The figures in brackets indicate the cost of the schemes.)

**TIRUVADANAI TALUK.**

- | (1)  | (2)                                       |
|--|---|
| 1. Rajasingamangalam Tank Project (Rs. 26,00,000)  | Approved by Government                    |
| 2. Construction of anicut across Manimuthar river to feed Sirugambiyur and other tanks in Paganur village (Rs. 6,40,000).  | Do.                                       |
| 3. Construction of a bed dam across Virusulaiyur near Eluvankottai village to feed Anjukottai supply channel and renovation of the channel, etc. (Rs. 8,20,000). | Construction in progress.                 |
| 4. Construction of anicut across Manimuthar river near Hanumanthakudi village to feed Kappalur Tiruppakottai and Mangalakudi supply channel (Rs. 10,16,000).     | Work in progress.                         |
| 5. Construction of an anicut across Thommar river near Vilavadiendal village to feed Unjanai and Chettivayal tanks. (Rs. 1,10,000).                              | Estimate sent to Government for approval. |

**TIRUPPATTUR TALUK.**

- | (1)  | (2)                           |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Construction of a bed dam across Virusulaiyur to feed Tirupattur Big Tank (Rs. 3,50,000).                             | Investigation work completed. |
| 2. Construction of a dam across Virusulaiyur to feed Avanathi, etc., tank in Tirupattur Taluk (Rs. 1,36,800).            | Work nearing completion.      |
| 3. Construction of a bed dam across Palar in Kalapoor village in Thirupattur Taluk (Rs. 1,95,000).                       | Do.                           |
| 4. Construction of a bed dam Muzhuneeran anicut across Uppar in Singampunari village (Rs. 1,50,950).                     | Do.                           |
| 5. Rajakkal and Peria Vaikkal Scheme (Rs. 1,32,000).   | Do.                           |
| 6. Construction of an anicut across Manimuthar river to direct water into Vadamavali Tank supply channel (Rs. 3,35,000). | Do.                           |

## PARANAGUDI TALUK

| (1)   | (2) |
|---|-----|
| 1. Repairs to Koothangal channel system Approved by Government.<br>(Rs. 7, 89,000). |     |
| 2. Renovation of Ventunatha Udayarkal supply<br>channel (Rs. 1,87,000).             | Do. |

## S.M.I.P. (INVESTIGATION) DIVISION.

## For Sattur and Srivilliputtur (TIRUNELVELI).

There are two Sub-divisions for attending to the investigation of Special Minor Irrigation Programme Works, one at Sattur and another at Srivilliputtur in the Ramanathapuram District. These two sub-divisions are under the control of the Executive Engineer, S.M.I.P. Investigation Division, Tirunelveli.

The following works have been taken up for execution by the Regular Ramanathapuram Division, which have been investigated by this Division :—

*Works Undertaken by the Ramanathapuram Division for execution.*

| Name of work.                                     | Estimated Amount. |
|---|-------------------|
| (1)   | (2)               |
| SATTUR TALUK.                                     |                   |
|   | RS.               |
| 1. New Tank in Vettilayaurani .. .. .             | 2,55,860          |
| 2. Sivagnanapuram .. .. .                         | 48,000            |
| 3. Nattaramangulam .. .. .                        | 73,000            |
| 4. Malleyanaickenpatti .. .. .                    | 1,20,000          |
| 5. Alampatti .. .. .                              | 1,25,000          |
| 6. Pulveipatti .. .. .                            | 69,000            |
| 7. Alagapuri .. .. .                              | 97,000            |
| 8. Ayyampatti .. .. .                             | 2,40,000          |
| 9. Muthalanaickenpatti .. .. .                    | 2,38,000          |
| 10. Nallamuthanpatti .. .. .                      | 66,200            |
| 11. New Supply Channel to Mettumalai Tank .. .. . | 13,000            |
| 12. Restoration of Thattampatti Tank .. .. .      | 66,000            |
| 13. Nalli Big Tank .. .. .                        | 80,000            |
| 14. Improvements to Vendakulam .. .. .            | 36,000            |

## SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUK.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Sundarapandiyan Tank .. .. .         | 1,84,350 |
| 2. Special repairs to Pudukulam .. .. . | 16,500   |

## SCHEME FOR WHICH DETAIL HAS BEEN COMPLETED

| (1)  | (2)      |
|--|----------|
| <b>SATTUR TALUK.</b>   |          |
| 1. Forming a new tank in Muthuswamipuram .. .. .                 | 2,50,000 |
| 2. Construction of an anicut across Vaippar near Sankaranatham.  | 5,67,000 |
| 3. Forming a new tank in Mathiseri village .. .. .               | 1,62,000 |
| 4. Forming a new tank in Kammampatti .. .. .                     | 2,45,000 |
| 5. Forming a new tank in Keelathiruthangal .. .. .               | 60,000   |
| 6. Forming a new tank in Vallampatti .. .. .                     | 3,50,400 |
| 7. Converting the existing check dam into a tank in Kottalpatti. | 22,900   |
| 8. Forming a new tank in Banduvarpatti .. .. .                   | 33,000   |
| 9. Forming a new tank in Gomangipuram .. .. .                    | 62,000   |

**SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUK.**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Forming a new tank in Thenkarai Village .. .. .                               | 2,55,000  |
| 2. Diversion of Kayakudiar to feed nine tanks in Sivakasi and Edirkottai firkas. | 1,33,000  |
| 3. Forming a reservoir across Pillavakkal .. .. .                                | 62,00,000 |
| 4. Improvements to Pirakudi tank .. .. .   | 48,500    |

## SCHEMES FOR WHICH PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

**SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUK.**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Improvements to Kuppankulam .. .. .          | 20,500   |
| 2. Improvements to Padikasuvaithankulam .. .. . | 1,05,000 |

**SATTUR TALUK.**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Improvements to Thiruthangal big tank .. .. .   | 1,55,000 |
| 2. Converting the existing Mudukundam into a masonry anicut near Karisalkulam village across the river Sivalaperi. | 36,000   |
| 3. Forming a new tank in Meenampatti .. .. .   | 41,700   |
| 4. Renovation of Vijayaramaperi Tank .. .. .   | 1,39,000 |
| 5. Forming a new tank near Puliparaipatti village .. .. .  | 36,000   |
| 6. Forming a reservoir near Vembakottai .. .. .  | 9,20,000 |
| 7. Forming a new tank near Govindanallur .. .. .   | 68,000   |

**Flood Protective Work.**—There are many villages on the banks of rivers which are affected by floods. One Sub-Division was formed in 1960 to investigate the flood protective works to the river Vaigai and Vaippar and other tributaries. The following 24 schemes have been investigated. This sub-division is under the control of the Executive Engineer, S.M.I.P. Division, Tiruchirapalli.

## OF FLOOD PROTECTIVE WORKS SOLEM INVESTIGATED BY THIS DIVISION,

| (1)   | (2)      |
|---|----------|
|   | RS.      |
| 1. Formation of Flood banks to the river Vaigai in Karendai and Therivalur village limits in the Ramanathapuram District. | 90,000   |
| 2. Forming Flood banks to the river Vaigai in Valasai village limits in Paramagudi Tank.                                  | 1,42,000 |
| 3. Forming Flood banks to the river Vaigai in Pullangudi Village limits in the Ramanathapuram District.                   | 50,000   |
| 4. Forming Flood banks to river Vaigai in Keelayakudi village limits in the Ramanathapuram District.                      | 80,500   |
| 5. Forming Flood banks to the river Vaigai in Mudalur village limits in the Ramanathapuram District.                      | 80,500   |
| 6. For providing flood banks to the river Vaigai in Paramagudi village limits in the Paramagudi Taluk.                    | 52,800   |
| 7. Providing flood banks to the river Vaigai in Moyyannendal village limits in the Paramagudi Taluk.                      | 8,000    |
| 8. Forming flood banks to the river Palar in Kalapur village limits in the Tirupattur Taluk.                              | 1,62,000 |
| 9. Forming flood banks to the river Vaigai in Sevvur village limits in the Paramagudi Taluk.                              | 67,500   |
| 10. Providing flood banks to the river Manimuthar in Naickanandal village limits in the Sivaganga Taluk.                  | 15,500   |
| 11. Forming flood banks to the river Virusuliar in Eluvankottai village limits in the Tiruvadanai Taluk.                  | 8,000    |
| 12. Forming flood banks to the river Uppar near Perakottai village limits in the Sivaganga Taluk.                         | 39,000   |
| 13. Forming flood banks to the river Vaigai in Manamadurai Panchayat Union.   | 45,000   |
| 14. Forming flood banks to Manakudi and Manakudi village limits in the Tiruvadanai Taluk.                                 | 55,000   |
| 15. Forming flood banks to the river Arjuna in Tiruvadampatti and Appaneri village limits in the Sattur Taluk.            | 17,200   |
| 16. Forming flood banks to the river Sarugani in Sankam village limits in Tiruvadanai Taluk.                              | 20,000   |
| 17. Forming flood banks to the Vaipar in Alagapuri in Padanendal and Sattur village limits in the Sattur Taluk.           | 31,500   |
| 18. Forming flood banks to protect Anbunagaram village in the Sattur Taluk.   | 4,000    |
| 19. Forming flood banks to the river Manjakollai in the Paramagudi Taluk.   | 65,000   |
| 20. Providing flood banks to river Vaigai to protect Andipatti and Selavandan village in Nilakottai Taluk.                | 1,20,000 |
| 21. Forming flood banks to the Mekkavayal village in the Tiruvadanai Taluk.   | 68,000   |
| 22. Providing flood banks to river Vaippar to protect the Sinduvampatti village in the Sattur Taluk.                      | 8,500    |
| 23. Forming flood banks to the river Manimuthar in Eriyur village in the Tirupattur Taluk.                                | 48,000   |
| 24. Forming flood banks to the river Manimuthar on the right side of Veppankulam village limits in the Tiruvadanai Taluk. | 29,500   |

These may have to be executed after getting sanction.

**Desilting-cum-reclamation scheme:**—One Assistant Engineer with his headquarters at Srivilliputtur is attending to the Desilting-cum-Reclamation work in the entire Ramanathapuram District. The Executive Engineer, (D.C.R. Division), Madras has control over this Sub-Division. Investigation of certain tanks requiring Desilting-cum-Reclamation in the District is being undertaken by this Sub Division.

**Improvements to tanks and other sources:**—Extremely significant results have thus been achieved during the first and second Five-Year Plan periods and the following table shows the achievements of the food production divisions in the District in recent years:—

| Financial Year. | Number of works sanctioned. | Estimated cost in Rs. | Number completed. | Area benefited. | Additional expense anticipated. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| (1)             | (2)                         | (3)                   | (4)               | (5)             | (6)                             |
| 1958-59 ..      | 126                         | 20,84,941             | 49                | 1,905.76        | 876.75                          |
| 1959-60 ..      | 576                         | 52,40,049             | 258               | 7,961.31        | 5,930.76                        |
| 1960-61 ..      | 555                         | 53,34,969             | 270               | 7,642.61        | 7,290.23                        |

Besides the above, the following expenditure was incurred by the Revenue Department on Minor Irrigation Works.

| Year.      | Amount spent in M.I. Source. |
|------------|------------------------------|
| (1)        | (2)                          |
| 1958-59 .. | 4,11,924                     |
| 1959-60 .. | 9,19,536                     |
| 1960-61 .. | 13,33,266                    |

**Soil Conservation:**—Soil conservation is a comprehensive term that includes all improved measures that are taken for the proper land utilisation and exploitation to the possible extent without at the same time depleting the soil. Thus soil conservation measures include good land husbandry, all land improvement measures to prevent soil erosion and conserve moisture and also provision of irrigation and drainage measures wherever necessary.

The problem of 'soil erosion' has presented itself in varying degrees from the time when man first turned the top soil to grow food. But in modern times the problem has become accentuated with the increasing intensity of cultivation. 'Soil erosion' is the loosening of the soil from its bed and its transportation from one place to another by the action of wind or water in motion. Soil erosion is of two kinds, geologic erosion and accelerated erosion. Under natural conditions, vegetation retards transportation of soil material and acts as a check against excessive erosion. A certain amount of erosion that



takes place slowly, is compensated by the formation of soil by natural weathering processes. Thus geologic erosion does not disturb the natural environment. On the other hand accelerated erosion occurs in cleared or cultivated lands, where the natural balance existing between soil, its vegetational cover and climate is disturbed by cultivation. It removes surface soil at a much faster rate than soil forming processes can build it up. This type of erosion seriously affects land economy and required to be combated by energetic measures. When compared with other States, the erosion problem is not, however, very acute in the districts of the Madras State. The two agencies that cause soil erosion are wind and water. Their velocity or flow largely determines the magnitude of the erosion. The topography particularly the gradient and the nature of the soil also play an important part in influencing the degree of erosion. When dry soils without cover are exposed to wind, wind erosion results. Wind erosion is not, however, as extensive as water erosion. This type of erosion is the most serious and extensive.

Soil erosion is largely a man-made problem caused by the misuse of land and the removal of its natural vegetative cover. Therefore the basis for all soil conservation measures is the realization of the natural limitations on the uses to which land may be put and the application of these limitations in land utilisation. This fact is now widely realised and plans for the better utilisation of land are now being understood as an essential part of all agricultural development. Erosion control measures aim at preventing surface run off and securing soil stabilisation. Steps are taken to clothe the land with natural vegetation and to preserve the growth. The important remedial measures now adopted to prevent or reduce surface run off include contour bunding, mixed cropping, crop rotation, etc. The most important way of preventing soil erosion practised is 'contour bunding'. 'Contour bunding' prevents surface run off, enables the retention of more moisture in the field, increases sub-soil water and raises the water table leading to the development of copious springs and the raising of water level in wells. The contour bunding method has been practised from time immemorial. Recently the practice has been made more scientific, leading to better efficiency. Rotation of crops is also another important remedy to reduce soil erosion. Apart from reducing erosion, it maintains soils fertility. This method is also extensively practised.

The following are among the benefits that accrue from the execution of soil conservation schemes:

- (a) Prevention of progressive loss of productive soil.
- (b) Disposal of excess water without causing soil erosion.
- (c) Increase in crop yields.
- (d) Proper utilisation of lands according to its capacity.
- (e) Permanent improvement to agricultural lands.

(f) Protection of tanks and reservoirs in the catchment against slit accretion to some extent.

(g) Improvements to the water table in the wells in and around the bunded area.

Because of the various benefits accruing, there is popular demand in all the districts of the State for the execution of soil conservation schemes. Accordingly one soil conservation scheme has been functioning in the Ramanathapuram District from May, 1962 with headquarters at Aruppukkot ai. During the years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65, 2,328 acres, 4,005 acres, and 6,150 acres of lands respectively have been covered in the District under the soil conservation scheme.

#### OTHER AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SCHEMES IN THE DISTRICT.

Agricultural engineering which has come to have a recognized place in Madras Agriculture, has also shown considerable progress in the District in recent years.

During the pre-independence period and in the past, the agricultural engineering activities of the Department of Agriculture was being administrated by the District Agricultural Officer, Sattur for the entire Ramanathapuram District. On 1st April 1968, pumping and boring branch under the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras was tagged on with the Agricultural Engineering Branch and was placed under the control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sattur, so far as Ramanathapuram District was concerned. On 31st July 1959, the administrative function besides technical supervision of engineering activities by the Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Inspection) Madurai over Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts was extended and the engineering activities till then under the control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sattur was transferred to the control of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Inspection), Madurai.

The entire engineering activities including pumping and boring work in both the districts of Madurai and Ramanathapuram with headquarters at Madurai was under the control of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Inspection), Madurai till a separate Assistant Agricultural Engineer for Ramanathapuram District was sanctioned in January, 1961. The delimitation of the territorial jurisdiction of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Inspection) Madurai over Ramanathapuram district was also ordered and the bifurcation of the Engineering activities in the entire Ramanathapuram District under a separate Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Mechanical) was given effect to and the new office started functioning with effect from 1st April 1961. The office of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Mechanical), Ramanathapuram, now functions with headquarters at Sivaganga.

The initial formation of this office was ordered to cater to the needs of agriculturists by hiring the oil engines and tractors and bulldozers which was followed by the hire purchase schemes of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets and tractors. Then this had an expansion with Filter Point Tube Well Scheme. From 1st April 1958 onwards Pumping and Boring Branch was added which consisted of hiring of hand boring sets, power drills and rock blasting units. Now in addition, schemes for sinking of sub-artesian wells and supply of otto frames have been tagged on. One River Pumping Scheme at Vadamalapuram Village in the Sattur Taluk is also functioning and starting of another scheme in Nenmeni village is in progress.

Totally about 130 numbers of bores have been sunk by the Agricultural Department after taking over from the Industries Department from 1st April 1958. In the Karaikkudi area of the Tiruppattur Taluk sub-artesian springs have been tapped.

There are now two Assistant Agricultural Engineers in the District—one at Sivaganga and the other at Aruppukkottai. They are in-charge of the Agricultural engineering activities of the District. They distribute oil engines, electric motor pumpsets and tractors under the Hire Purchase Scheme to the needy ryots. They also give tractors and bulldozers under the Hiring Scheme for ploughing and levelling.

The various agricultural engineering schemes operated in the District are briefly described below :

**Tractor Hiring Scheme:**—Tractors and bulldozers are hired to the ryots for agricultural purposes.

**Tractors Hire Purchase Scheme:**—Tractors are supplied under the hire purchase scheme. The maximum amount of loan is Rs. 20,000. The ryot should be solvent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the loan amount. He should pay an initial deposit of Rs. 1,000. The applicant should produce solvency certificate, encumbrance certificate and should mortgage his lands for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the loan amount. There is a concession of 50 per cent on stamp duty for mortgaging the lands. The loan amount with 5 per cent interest and 3 per cent is recovered in 7 annual equal instalments. The deposit is adjusted in the final instalment.

**Sub Artesian Well Scheme:**—Hand boring sets are given for boring inside the wells and power drills for ground bores. If the bores proved successful, loan is given towards the cost of sinking bore wells, purchase of pipes and fittings and also for pumping machinery. Ten per cent of such loan amount is treated as subsidy and the balance of 90 per cent alone is recovered in 5 equal annual instalments. The maximum loan amount is Rs. 6,000.

**Filter Point Schemes :—**Where there is sufficient underground spring within 25 feet from ground level and where the soil is coarse sand for about 10 feet within 25 feet from ground level, filter point is sunk and water is pumped direct from the filter point. For this, pumping machineries are given on loan. Cost of pumpsets, pipes and fittings and filter points are treated as loan and recovered in 5 equal annual instalments. 10 per cent of the loan amount in this scheme is also treated as subsidy. The maximum amount of loan is Rs. 3,000.

**River Pumping Scheme :—**Wells are sunk in the river beds or near the river banks. A minimum of 50 acres must be available on the river side for irrigation. A well is sunk and pumpset installed departmentally after getting willingness from the beneficiaries that they will agree to pay water charges. Water charges are collected as follows:—5 per cent interest on the capital cost plus the actual running and maintenance cost will be recovered from the beneficiaries.

**Community well Pumping Scheme :—**Wells are sunk in the poromboke lands where good springs can be tapped. There should be a commandable area of about 50 acres. The work will be done departmentally. The entire cost is recoverable from the beneficiaries under this scheme. 5 per cent interest, on the capital plus the depreciation value plus the actual running and maintenance cost will be recovered from the beneficiaries.

**Supply of Oil Engine and Electric Motor Pumpsets For Wells ;—**This scheme was operated by the Agricultural Department till 31st March, 1963 and this has now been handed over to the Board of Revenue. Under this scheme pumpsets were supplied under hire purchase system to the ryots and the cost is recovered in instalments.

The following details show the progress achieved in the various schemes so far (upto 22nd December 1963) ;

|   |         |                |
|---|---------|----------------|
| 1. Total number of oil engines hired  | .. .. . | 22             |
| Area benefited  | .. .. . | 1,760 acres.   |
| 2. Average number of Tractor worked per year                                | .. .. . | 6              |
| Area covered by ploughing   | .. .. . | 34,560 acres.  |
| 3. Average number of bulldozers worked per year                             | .. .. . | 4              |
| Area levelled   | .. .. . | 1,856 acres. . |
| 4. Number of oil engines supplied under hire purchase scheme to open wells. |         | 204            |
| Number of electric motors supplied  | .. .. . | 436            |
| 5. Number of oil engines supplied under filter point schemes.               |         | 541            |
| Number of electric motors supplied under filter point scheme.               |         | 68             |
| 6. Number of oil engine supplied for bore wells                             | .. .. . | 46             |
| Number of electric motors supplied  | .. .. . | 72             |
| 7. Total number of bores sunk   | .. .. . | 130            |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 8. Number of hand boring sets issued on hire .. ..  | 11            |
| 9. Number of power drills issued on hire .. ..  | 2             |
| 10. Number of rock blasting units issued on hire .. .   | 1             |
| 11. Number of tractors supplied under hire purchase scheme.   | 12            |
| 12. Number of river pumping schemes .. ..   |               |
| 13. (a) Amount of loan distributed for supply of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets for wells.                               | Rs. 10,25,00  |
| (b) Amount of loan distributed for supply of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets for wells under filter point scheme.         | Rs. 14,16,900 |
| (c) Amount of loan distributed for supply of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets for wells under tractor hire purchase scheme | Rs. 2,40,000  |
| (d) Amount of loan distributed for supply of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets for wells under sub-artesian well scheme     | Rs. 2,87,000  |
| (e) Sub artesian well scheme subsidy .. ..  | Rs. 87,240    |

### PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.

*Agricultural Implements and Farm Mechanization:* Tillage is the manipulation of the soil by means of tools and implements to alter its structural relationships and provide conditions favourable for plant growth. Tillage perhaps is one of the oldest of agricultural arts and the problems of soil cultivation are not well understood even today. Generations of practical farmers have evolved by trial and error, methods of soil cultivation which have maintained soil fertility at an undiminished level. The tools and implements used for tillage are many and varied and considerable progress has been made in recent times in their design. The main objects of tillage are:

(i) to modify soil structure in a manner as to produce suitable tilth to a sufficient depth for germination of seeds and the subsequent growth of plants.

(ii) to readjust the movement of soil moisture and soil air and ultimately regulate and modify soil temperature;

(iii) to incorporate and mix manure, vegetation or organic matter for their rapid decomposition in the soil ;

(iv) to destroy or suppress weeds ;

(v) to render plant foods more available by the action of weathering agencies ;

(vi) to promote favourable conditions for the development of beneficial soil organisms; and

(vii) to destroy insect pests and diseases lurking in the soil.

*The Ploughs:*—Among all agricultural implements, the plough is the most useful implement and the one most extensively used for field operations from very ancient times. The country plough consists of a wooden body to which is fixed an iron share, a shaft pole and a handle or stilt. The country plough, thus, is a very simple implement which could be easily fabricated and repaired in the rural areas by a local carpenter and a smith. The country plough differs from the modern iron plough in two respects. Firstly,

the country plough makes a "V" shaped furrow and splits the soil and there is no inversion of the furrow slice. Therefore, it is necessary to plough field a number of times, atleast four times to stir the surface soil completely without leaving unploughed areas. Secondly, the country plough has no adjustment for varying the width of depth of the furrow as provided in modern iron ploughs. In spite of these two disadvantages, the country plough has the important advantage in that it can be worked in a field even when it is slightly wet without much injury to the soil which is not possible with an iron mould board plough. The country plough has a light draught and therefore is also easily worked by the generally small sized village cattle. Further, the country plough is cheap and is easily fabricated and repaired and the raw materials necessary are also locally available.

Country ploughs are designed in various sizes to suit different conditions of work. The ploughs used for wet puddled conditions are generally small and light while medium to heavy types of ploughs are used in garden and dry lands.

The impact of western civilization and development of scientific agriculture, particularly after the industrial revolution in Europe and America have given our country some lead in the application of mechanical inventions to agricultural implements. The first iron plough was possibly introduced during the middle of the 19th century. The manufacture of iron mould board ploughs in India dates back to 1920, when Kirloskar Brothers in Kirloskarvadi attempted to design and manufacture the smaller types of foreign ploughs. Coopers of Satara followed them. From 1930, several others started the manufacture of iron ploughs. There are also certain local fabricators in the Salem District who are manufacturing improved iron ploughs and other labour saving implements.

The modern ploughs are of varied pattern. A typical mould board plough consists of the plough bottom and the plough accessories. The plough bottom is the real unit of the plough and consists of the real working parts to penetrate, lift and invert the soil. It is framed and built in the form of a three-sided wedge. The essential parts of the plough bottom are the frog, the share, which is the cutting edge of the plough, the landside which slides along side of the furrow slides and the brace, which holds all these parts together and gives rigidity to the plough bottom. The frog holds rigidly the share, landside and mould board. It is made of good tempered steel or sometimes of cast iron. The share is the part which helps the plough to penetrate into the soil and cut the furrow slice and hence it is the cutting edge of the plough. The landside is the part that receives and counteracts the side pressure due to the turning of the furrow slice on the mould board. It keeps the plough steady in the soil while ploughing. The mouldboard is a curved steel plate so fitted that it completes the lifting of the furrow slice cut by the share and then turns it over completely

and leaves it lying at an angle of 45 degrees. The kind of furrow slice that is turned by a plough is dependent upon the mould board which are of different forms. The plough accessories are the handles, the beam or shaft pole, the clevis and the coulter. Some ploughs have one or more wheels in addition.

**Harrows:**—After a field has been ploughed, the next step in the preparation of the seed bed is to break the clods and bring the field to the proper condition of tilth to receive the seeds. This is done by harrowing and cultivating and the implements used for this purpose are called harrows and cultivators.

Harrows are of several kinds. When a few branches are tied together and drawn over the field, this constitutes brush harrow and is even now a popular harrowing equipment. The spike tooth harrow is made up of a number of tooth resembling spikes carried on a suitable frame. The peg tooth harrow is an indigenous edition of the spike tooth harrow. In this harrow a number of hard wood sharpened pegs are mounted on a wooden frame. It serves the same purpose as a spike tooth harrow. The blade harrow or the *guntaka* is the common name for a group of implements, wherein a mild steel blade of varying width and thickness is fitted to a frame which constitutes the main tilling part of the implement. The most common implement used for seed bed preparation, the *guntaka*, essentially consists of a long steel flat or blade of about 2 inches breadth and 4 to 6 feet length fixed on two projecting arms from a wooden beam are also fixed two poles which extend to the yoke for yoking purposes. When drawn by a pair of bullocks, the blade works at an angle to the soil surfaces, thus penetrating to a depth of one or two inches resulting in the stirring of the soil over the whole length of the blade. The depth of penetration could be varied by tying the harrow near or far from the yoke, a farther yoking resulting in deeper penetration. When yoked sufficiently near the draught animals and the yoke, the wooden beam and the blade are in a level with the soil and there is no penetration of the blade into the soil, the beam alone moves just over the soil. Such an adjustment is used for covering seeds behind the seed drill.

The *H. M. guntakas* are the modern counterparts of the indigenous implements. They are designed to provide a better range of adjustment for depth of working to facilitate the replacement of the blade for various purposes and for the provision of a strong iron frame to last longer. The *H. M. guntakas* are made in different sizes with varying widths of the iron blade.

Cultivators generally follow the ploughs to break up the furrow slices and clods. A cultivator that is generally used in South India is the junior hoe. Though called a hoe, the junior hoe is an inter-cultivator. It is a light cultivating implement primarily designed for loosening the soil and eradicating weeds between rows of crops

It has a light steel frame, which is approximately triangular in shape to which the cultivating tynes are attached. A wheel which regulates the depth of penetration has also a pair of handles for steering the implement. In all implements of this kind, there is a lever arrangement by which the frame could be broadened or narrowed to adjust cultivation width to the space between the rows of crops. The frame is collapsible and actually collapses when the space between the rows is narrow and expands for broader rows. The *tynes* being fixed to the collapsible frame also adjust themselves naturally paralleled to the work.

The junior hoe is a general purpose implement that can be used for several purposes with suitable parts and adjustments. The *tyne* point is generally replaceable and the type of *tyne* point mentioned earlier could be fitted on for working. When the reversible *shovel tynes* are fitted, it can be used for intercultivating crops, covering seeds and manures more economically than the country plough. With a double mould board tiller attachment to the central back *tyne* or a furrower, the implement can be used for laying the land into ridges and furrows and also for earthing the soil to row crops. The hoes are drawn up and down the rows by a pair of bullocks or by a single bullock, if properly trained for the purpose.

*Other Implements* :—Levelling of a field may sometimes be essential particularly when the field has to be irrigated for crop production. The buck scraper or earth scoop is a simple and efficient bullock drawn implement for the levelling of fields, for excavating drains, for sinking tar and for similar earth moving work, over short distances.

When a crop has to be irrigated after sowing as is done under garden land conditions, it may be necessary to throw the fields into ridges and furrows. The ridge plough is a useful implement for forming ridges and furrows and the bund former for forming basins for irrigation. The ridge plough is an ordinary plough but has two mould boards, one for turning the soil to the right and the other for turning the soil to the left. The share is a double wing type to take care of both the right and left mould boards.

In the preparation for garden lands for irrigation, small bunds to a height of about nine inches or ridges are formed lengthwise and crosswise. This forming of the fields into beds was hitherto done entirely by human labour involving ten or twelve man-days. The bund former recently designed by the Department of Agriculture of the State can be worked with bullock power for forming the beds, thus saving considerable manpower.

Adequate information is not available regarding the stock of implements and machines that are available in the District. The quinquennial livestock census, however, gives an enumeration of the more important implements such as ploughs, carts, sugarcane



crushers, oil engines, tractors, etc. The common agricultural implement that may be available even in the smallest farm is the plough. Besides this most of the small cultivators are likely to have a sickle or scythe for harvesting, a bill-hook, an axe and a crow bar, a wooden levelling implement and a spade. The following table shows the number of ploughs, carts etc. available in the Ramanathapuram District according to the quinquennial livestock census of 1961.

| <i>Item.</i>       |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Numbers.</i> |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|
| (1)                |    |    |    |    |    | (2)             |
| Ploughs            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 247,169         |
| Carts              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60,804          |
| Sugarcane crushers |    |    | .. | .. | .. | 176             |
| Tractors           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10              |
| Oil engines        |    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 929             |
| Electric pumps     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,569           |
| Ghanis             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 753             |

Though the older types of implements like country ploughs are still used by many of the ryots in the District the use of improved agricultural implements like iron ploughs are becoming increasingly popular in the District. The following are among the improved implements that are becoming popular in the District:—

Iron Ploughs,  
Ridge Ploughs,  
Bund Former,  
Buckserapers,  
Trampler,  
Puddler,  
Burmese sattern,  
Mhote wheels,  
Inter cultivators and other equipments such as Digging forks,  
Sprayers,  
Dusters.

The Department of Agriculture is hiring out to ryots tractors and bull-dozers.

The Government are also issuing loans under Hire Purchase System for tractors under instalment basis.

The Department also distributes in large numbers other common improved implements at subsidized rates.

As already seen according to the quinquennial livestock census taken in 1961, there were 10 tractors, 929 oil engines and 3,569 electric pumps in the District.

*Japanese Method of Cultivation* :—The Japanese method of cultivation has become quite popular among the ryots of the District. It is adopted not only on paddy fields but also on fields growing

dry crops, sugarcane and cotton. During the First Plan period 60,396 acres were under this method in the District. In the Second Plan period the area under the method further considerably increased and the area covered stood at 1,79,393 acres at the end of the period.

*Sowing method* :—Sowing of seeds may be done by any one of the following methods.

- (i) Broadcasting.
- (ii) Dibbling behind the country plough.
- (iii) Dibbling by hand in lines on the sides of ridges previously formed ; and
- (iv) Drill sowing.

Large tracts of land in South Madras State are sown broadcast and this is the most popular form of sowing. Broadcasting is the scattering of seeds in the field by hand to effect a uniform spread over the whole field. Even distribution is attained only with considerable skill on the part of the sower. Dibbling behind the country plough is done by dropping the seeds by hand uniformly in the plough furrow by women walking behind the plough. The country plough is used for this purpose as it makes a convenient "V" shaped furrow to receive the seed. Such dibbling behind the country plough is adopted in sowing large sized seeds like groundnut and cotton where the seeds have to be sown at a reasonably good depth of two to three inches. When crops are sown under irrigated conditions, the field is thrown into ridges and furrows at the required spacings to effectively irrigate the field. Ridges and furrows are made with a ridge plough. Seeds are sown in such fields on the sides of the ridges by hand dibbling of the seeds individually.

The indigenous seed drill is intended to sow seeds in lines. The indigenous seed drill consists of a beam, usually made of 'babool' wood on which is mounted three or six coulter. The coulters are made of wood with iron share points resembling a miniature country plough. They open furrows for depositing the seed and are fixed in an oblique position on the beam to obtain correct penetration into the soil. The *tynes* are set on the beam at the required spacing between the rows of crops to be sown. On such *tynes* is a hole at its base and on each hole is mounted a corresponding metal or bamboo tube. Three such tubes from three adjacent *tynes* telescope to end in the seed hopper fixed on the top. The hopper is of wood with holes communicating to each tube, such that when the seeds are dropped into the hopper, they pass through these holes and the tubes and then are finally deposited into the soil after passing through the holes in the *tynes*. The tubes and hopper are mounted and fixed by tying with strings to the beam and *tynes*. Every three *tynes* have a hopper and a six *tyned* drill has therefore two hoppers. A handle is fixed to the beam to facilitate guiding of the drill by the driver. The beam is tied on to the yoke by means

of the shaft poles. A pair of bullocks specially trained to walk straight, pulls the seed drill and a woman follows with each hopper delivering seeds into it regularly. The deposition of the seed has to be done carefully to effect uniform distribution of the seeds in the row.

In the *mechanical seed drill*, the sowing operation is automatic which provides some amount of uniformity and precision in the distribution of the seeds in the rows. The essential parts of this drill are a seed box to hold substantial quantity of seeds, a mechanism to deliver uniform quantities of seeds to the tubes conveying the same to the soil, furrow openers, the frame on which these are mounted and a mechanical gear arrangements to provide power to drive the seed delivery arrangement. The seed box has in its base two discs. The top disc which revolves has a number of holes drilled in it to match the size of the seed and the spacing required in the row. The bottom disc is fixed and has six holes, each in direct communication to a *tyme* tube. The top rotating disc is interchangeable and has to be changed according to the seed used for sowing. While sowing, this disc rotates being driven by a gear arrangement connected to the wheel of the seed drill and in doing so, a hole in the top disc comes directly over a hole in the bottom disc at regular intervals. When this happens, a direct communication is maintained between the seed box and the soil through the tubes and *tynes* and a few seeds drop. This contact between the seed box and the soil is maintained at regular intervals and seeds are allowed to drop on each occasion. In this manner uniform sowing is effected as the seeds drop down at uniform intervals.

*Farm Mechanisation* :—In all parts of the world today, agriculture is mechanised to a degree, but in some countries the trend of mechanisation has been revolutionary while in others it has been halting. Farm mechanisation consists in using power for various agricultural operations such as ploughing, lifting water, threshing, winnowing, transportation, etc. The advantages in having a tractor for cultivation are many. Firstly, it enables cultivation of large holdings even under conditions of insufficient manpower resulting in saving of wages where high wages exist for labour. Secondly, there is a large reduction in the number of work stock required for cultivation. Thirdly, a tractor helps in carrying out agricultural operations in time as in all agricultural operations proper timing is very important. Further the work done by power machinery in many cases is more tidy and efficient compared to the work turned out by human or cattle labour. Further more mechanisation ultimately helps in reducing the cost of production of agricultural commodities.

Farm mechanisation, however, possesses certain problems. Firstly, mechanisation calls for a large initial capital investment. Secondly, skilled labour is required for operating the tractor. Skilled labour is costly. Lack of adequate servicing and repair facilities in rural areas where the tractor has to ultimately work is also a problem

The risk of break down in the remote farms has necessarily to be considered particularly when repair or servicing facilities are completely absent. Further, the resultant reduction in the number of work-stock may lead to a reduction in the output of cattle manure and soil fertility may perhaps be affected in the long run. The most troublesome problem in farm mechanisation is the existence of very large number of small holdings. The average holdings in the State are very small. Even big landlords do not have their lands in one block. These are weighty considerations against mechanisation. Even in the face of these disadvantages, there is room for mechanisation in many farms in the country, particularly in large farms under well irrigation. Tractors are now gradually becoming popular in these areas.

*Improved seeds* :— One of the many technological methods by which crop production can be increased is the extensive use of high quality seeds of improved strains most suitable to be grown in an area. Since every farmer is using seed for crop production, he can easily be made conscious of the significance of the use of first class improved seeds for his own benefit in place of the one he uses. There are two ways of increasing yields of agricultural crops firstly, by improving the environmental conditions and secondly, by improving the plant itself. Every farmer tries in his daily work to give the plant the best growing conditions by preparing the soil well by fertilising, by irrigation, by weeding his fields and so on. But all his efforts will be in vain if the plants he is growing are low yielding or poor in other respects. It is no good to give heavy dressings of fertilizers if the straw of the plants is too weak to support the heavy yield. If the plants are susceptible to diseases the yield may be badly affected by a severe attack inspite of the best growing conditions. A good strain of seed is necessary not only to make full use of good conditions but also to stand up to bad ones. Such strains are developed by crop improvements.

Crop improvement covers a wide field of activities. Though surveys of the wild vegetation, species which have not been cultivated previously have been found to be very valuable and have been used as parents. Introduction from abroad of new species not yet grown in the country or new varieties of ones already grown have resulted in increased production. Such plant introduction has gone on, more or less, by itself for centuries in all parts of the world and has had an enormous influence on the development of crops production everywhere. But more systematic introduction has taken place in recent years. For instance, the introduction of Japanese paddy varieties to be used as parents in paddy improvement in Madras is progressing. Local varieties often show a very big variation in productivity. A collection and a thorough testing of such local varieties has resulted in the evolution of a few types superior to the others and the more intensive use of these have resulted in an increased average yield. Mass selection or single plant selection from local varieties is another simple, but often very effective way of

evolving types leading to high yields. Through hybridisation, which today is the most important type of breeding, the best characters in different varieties can be combined or specially valuable characters, such as resistance to diseases, can be introduced into a given variety which is lacking in that character. An increased knowledge of genetics, has in the last decades, led to the development of new varieties, building up few types of complicated species and by artificially induced mutations using chemicals and X-rays. Through crop improvement, new types are now at the farmers' disposal. This new material called improved seeds give higher yields. *Resistant varieties* have been of great value during past years in many crops in their struggle against some of the more devastating plant diseases.

Stiff straw in paddy will make the harvest less laborious as there will be no lodging and will also make it possible to use larger amounts of fertilizers and thus to get higher yields without risk of lodging. Resistance to drought will enable plants to survive periods of unfavourable condition and will thus make it possible to extend the area in which certain species can be grown. A reduction in the vegetative period will make it possible for the plants to reach maturity before a dry season starts. Varieties non-sensitive to photoperiodism can be used over a larger area. In addition to all these characters which influence the yield, some types give rice of excellent quality.

To achieve the maximum benefit from research in plant breeding it is essential that these new strains evolved must be kept clean and healthy; they must also be multiplied under control and distributed in sufficient quantities to the regions where they are to be used. The control should ensure not only that the varieties are distributed under their appropriate names and that they are practically free from admixtures of other strains, but also that the seeds are free from seed-borne diseases, insects, weed-seeds and other admixtures liable to decrease their value and they have a good germination capacity. The most important point is that varieties are thoroughly tested before they are distributed.

The Department of Agriculture after long years of research has evolved several improved strains of crops. Improved seeds are those in which improved qualities like high yields, drought resistance, resistance to diseases like blast non-lodging, resistance to alkalinity etc., have been introduced by hybridisation. The farmers have come to realise the value of these improved strains and there is keen demand for these seeds.

The following are the important strains of paddy that are popular in the District.

PADDY.

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| Serial number. | Name of the strain.               | Age of the strain (in days). | Colour of the glume.   | Paddy.             | Colour of the rice | Normal yield (maximum per acre).   | Special feature, if any. |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| (1)            | (2)                               | (3)                          | (4)                    | (5)                | (6)                | (7)  |                          |
|                |                                   |                              |                        |                    | IN LBS.            |  |                          |
| 1.             | CO-2 Poombalai or Karthika Samba. | 150                          | Straw .. ..            | White .. ..        | 4,800              | It adopts itself better than other varieties.  |                          |
| 2.             | CO-13 Arupathamkudai .. ..        | 110                          | Straw with purple tip. | Do. .. ..          | 3,000              | It yields 14 per cent over local varieties.  |                          |
| 3.             | CO-25 Hybrid sirumani .. ..       | 190                          | .....                  | Translucent white. | 4,000              | Yields 49 per cent higher than ADT.10 and is popular in areas where long duration varieties are grown.   |                          |
| 4.             | CO-29 .. ..                       | 115                          | .....                  | White .. ..        | 3,000              | It is becoming very popular in the District.   |                          |
| 5.             | GER.24 Kichūi Samba .. ..         | 150                          | Straw .. ..            | Do. .. ..          | 5,000              | It yields best under early planted conditions and where the drainage is perfect and high manuring is practised. Its non-shedding habit fine quality, yielding comparative higher proportion of rice to paddy by weight and its tolerance to inadequate water supply and somewhat saline conditions have all commended themselves to the ryots. |                          |

|     |  |     |     |                   |       |    |                |  |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-------------------|-------|----|----------------|--|
| 6.  | ASD. 4 <i>Kuruvakattan</i>                                       | ..  | 135 | Brown in furrows. | Red   | .. | 2,000 to 2,540 | It gives 35 per cent increased yield over the ryots' bulk. It is a coarse drought resistant strain suitable to be sown broadcast with the advent of pre-monsoonic showers of the north-east monsoon in September.  |
| 7.  | ASD. 11 <i>Ohatticadi</i>  | ..  | 155 | ..                | White | .. | 4,000          | It yields 5 per cent more than A.S.D. 5.   |
| 8.  | SR. 26 B. <i>Kasipichadi</i> also known as <i>Palna</i> variety. | ..  | 110 | ..                | White | .. | 3,000          | This is a saline resistant variety and is becoming popular in the District.  |
| 9.  | BAM. 3   | [.. | 155 | ..                | White | .. | 2,509          | This variety is becoming popular in the District.  |
| 10. | ASD 1. <i>Karasamba</i>  | ..  | 115 | ..                | Red   | .. | ..             | This strain is isolated from the <i>Karasamba red</i> giving 21 per cent increased yield over the ryots' bulk and 12 per cent over Co.9. ( <i>Karasamba red</i> ), a strain already under distribution. This strain grows tall and tillers well with good quantity of straw. It also yields a better percentage of rice to paddy than the local <i>Karasamba red</i> . |

(NOTE:—All the above varieties have, however, given yields ranging from 800 lbs. to 1,500 lbs. in District due to conditions of non-assured water supply).

| Serial number. | Name of the strain.     | Paddy— <i>only</i> . |     | Age of the strain (in days). | Colour of the paddy. | Colour of the rice | Normal yield (maximum per acre). | Special feature if any   |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
|                |                         | (1)                  | (2) | (3)                          | (4)                  | (5)                | (6)                              | (7)  |
| 11.            | ASD. 5. Karthika Samba  | ..                   | 135 | ...                          | ...                  | ...                | ..                               | This strain is isolated from Karthika Samba bulk and gives 15 per cent increased yield over CO. 2. It is taller than CO. 2 with a finer size grain and gives a higher hulling percentage of rice to paddy. It adapts itself better than other varieties for late planted conditions of November. This strain is cosmopolitan in nature and has done very well under different conditions obtaining in the Ramanathapuram District. |
| 12.            | TKM. 6. Sana Sornavalli | ..                   | ..  | ...                          | ...                  | ...                | ..                               | This is a hybrid strain between CO. 18 and GEB. 24.  |
| 13.            | ASD. 8. Thuramalli      | ..                   | 16  | ...                          | ...                  | ...                | ..                               | This is a short duration variety usually grown in the fields where second crop nurseries are to be raised. This is usually grown in June when it is at its best. Sowing in October or November is also not uncommon, but the yield is considerably reduced. The average grain yield is about 2,700 lbs.  |



# MILLETS.

The following improved varieties of millets and pulses are raised in the Ramanathapuram District.

| Serial number. | Name of strain.           | Duration (in days). | Panicle. | Colour of grain. | Grain yield per acre. (in lbs). | Special features, if any.   |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| (1)            | (2)                       | (3)                 | (4)      | (5)              | (6)                             | (7)   |
| <i>Ragi—</i>   |                           |                     |          |                  |                                 |   |
| 1.             | C0. 2 <i>Muthiragi</i> .. | 110                 | Fisty .. | Red ..           | 2,200                           | ....  |
| 2.             | C0. 7 ..                  | 100                 | Incurved |                  | 2,500 to 2,800                  | ....  |
| 3.             | K. 2 ..                   | 110                 | ....     | Brown ..         | 1,000                           | Grown as dry ragi and yields well under drought conditions. It is becoming popular in the District. |

## *Cholam—*

|    |                               |     |      |                        |                                  |   |
|----|-------------------------------|-----|------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | K1. <i>Irungu-cholam</i> ..   | 135 | .... | Brown ..               | 400 (grain). 5,000 (dry fodder). | Mostly a fodder strain.                                     |
| 2. | C0. 9 <i>Vellai Cholam</i> .. | 95  | .... | White pearly red wash. | 2,500 to 2,750                   | Cosmopolitan irrigated strains grown in very limited areas. |
| 3. | ASD 8 <i>Vellai Cholam</i> .. | 110 | .... | White pearly           | 2,000 to 2,300                   |   |

(MILLETS)—*contd.*

| (1) | (2)                        | (3) | (4)  | (5)                  | (6)            | (7)  |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|------|----------------------|----------------|--|
| 1.  | CO.18 <i>Pellai Cholam</i> | 95  | .... | White with red wash. | 2,200 to 2,400 | Irrigated.   |
| 5.  | K.3. <i>Irungu cholam</i>  | ..  | .... | ....                 | ..             | It is a rain-fed fodder crop raised during September—December.   |
|     | <i>Cumbu</i> :—            |     |      |                      |                |  |
| 1.  | K.1. <i>Kattu Cumbu</i>    | 90  | .... | Cylindrical          | 2,000          | It is becoming popular in the District as rain-fed crop.   |
| 2.  | K.3. <i>Cumbu</i>          | ..  | .... | ....                 | ..             | ....   |
|     | <i>Varagu</i> :—           |     |      |                      |                |  |
|     | CO.1. ..                   | 150 | .... | ....                 | 900            | It is very suited for areas with poor rainfall and is able to stand drought. It has given good yield even under adverse seasonal conditions. |

## PULSES.

| Popular Name.                      | (1) | (2) | Season of planting for growing. | (3) | (4) | Normal yield in lbs. | (5) | (6) | Important character.   |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|--|
| <i>Pulses</i> — <i>Bengal gram</i> |     |     |                                 |     |     |                      |     |     |  |
| CO. 1 <i>Kadalai</i> ..            | ..  | ..  | Rain-fed.                       | ..  | 105 | 600—700              |     |     | Flowers pink in colour. Seed brown in colour and medium in size, suitable even for late sowings. |

## COMMERCIAL CROPS.

The following are some of the strains of cotton and sugarcane crops raised in the District.

| COTTON.                               |                     |                                |                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Name of strain.<br>(1)                | Nature.<br>(2)      | Normal yield.<br>(3)           | Staple length.<br>(5) |  |
|                                       |                     |                                | IN INCHES.            |  |
| 1. K.6. Pandian Karunganni .. ..      | Rain-fed .. ..      | 1,101 lbs. per acre .. ..      | 31/32"                |  |
| 2. M.C.U.1. Combodia (എറണാകുളം) .. .. | Seasonal crop .. .. | 400 lbs. per acre .. ..        | 1 inch.               |  |
| 3. M.C.U.2. Combodia (എറണാകുളം) .. .. | Summer crop .. ..   | 370 lbs. per acre .. ..        | 11/16"                |  |
| 4. E.2. Thirunelvelies .. ..          | Rain-fed .. ..      | 100 to 130 lbs. per acre .. .. | 7/8" to 15/16"        |  |

## Sugarcane—

CO. 419 :—This is the most popular variety called "wonder cane" on account of its high yield. It has remarkable qualities like vigorous growth, good tillering, capacity to withstand adverse conditions, good rationing capacity etc. But it is unsuitable for early crushing. The average yield per acre is 24 tons in the Ramanathapuram District.

CO. 449 :—This strain is suitable for mid-season crushing. This yields 10 to 12 per cent higher than CO. 419. The rind is hard. This variety stands drought conditions well.

Besides the strains CO. 419 and CO. 449 strain CO. 467 is also used in the District.

The Agricultural Department have recommended the following improved strains of seeds for the various crops for adoption by the ryots in the Ramanathapuram (West) Agricultural Division comprising the taluks of Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur <sup>1</sup>.—

| <i>Practices.</i>                     | <i>Season.</i>       | <i>Name of strain recommended.</i>             |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| (1)                                   | (2)                  | (3)  |
| <b>PADDY.</b>                         |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed crop ( <i>Manavari</i> ). | July-August .. ..    | <i>Ambai</i> —4 அம்பை                          |
| 2. Wet crop.. ..                      | September-October .. | <i>Ambai</i> —5 அம்பை                          |
| 3. Summer .. ..                       | February-March ..    | CO2; CO13 and <i>Ambai</i> —8.                 |
| 4. Alkaline lands .. ..               | September—October.   | SRB 26.  |
| <b>RAGI.</b>                          |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed ( <i>Manavari</i> ) ..    | July-August .. ..    | <i>Kovilpatti</i> -1.                          |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | <i>Kovilpatti</i> -2.<br><i>Kovilpatti</i> -4. |
| <b>CHOLAM.</b>                        |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed .. ..                     | July-August .. ..    | <i>Kovilpatti</i> -1.                          |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | September-October .. | 107; K. 2.                                     |
| <b>CUMBU.</b>                         |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed .. ..                     | July-August .. ..    | K. 1.  |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | September-October .. | CO. 3.   |
| <b>GROUNDNUT.</b>                     |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed .. ..                     | July-August .. ..    | TMV 1.   |
|                                       | September-October .. |  |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | TMV 2.   |
| <b>GINGILI.</b>                       |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed .. ..                     | September-December   | TMV 2.   |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | MCO 2.   |
| <b>COTTON.</b>                        |                      |  |
| 1. Rain-fed .. ..                     | September-December.  | K2; 6.   |
| 2. Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | MCU 2.   |
| <b>SUGARCANE.</b>                     |                      |  |
| 1. Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | CO 419, 449 and 467.                           |

1. *Vide* Government of Madras (Department of Agriculture): *Village Calendar*, 1960-61 (Tamil).

The Department have also recommended <sup>1</sup> the following strains of improved seeds for adoption by the ryots in the Ramanathapuram (East) Agricultural Division comprising the taluks of Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai, Sivaganga and Tiruppattur.

| <i>Practice.</i>                   | <i>Season.</i>       | <i>Name of strains recommended.</i>                                       |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| (1)                                | (2)                  | (3)   |
| <b>PADDY (FIRST CROP).</b>         |                      |   |
| 1. Short-period crop (3½ months).  | June-July .. ..      | CO 13 ( <i>Arupatharum Kodai</i> ).                                       |
| 2. Medium period crop (4½ months). | Do. .. ..            | GE 24 ( <i>Kich li Samba</i> ).   |
| 3. Medium period crop (4 months).  | July-August .. ..    | ASD 4 ( <i>Kuruwai-kanaiyan</i> ).  |
| 4. Long period crop ..             | Do. .. ..            | CO 25 ( <i>Nattu Sirumani</i> ),<br>CO 19 ( <i>Chingleput Sirumani</i> ). |
| 5. Medium period crop ..           | September-October .. | SD. 5 ( <i>Karthikai Samba</i> ),<br>(Good for late crop).<br>CO 2.       |
| <b>(PADDY (SECOND CROP).</b>       |                      |   |
| Short period crop ..               | November-December.   | CO 13.  |
| <b>PADDY (ON ALKALINE LANDS).</b>  |                      |   |
|                                    | September-October .. | SR. 26B   |
| <b>SUGARCANE.</b>                  |                      |   |
| Irrigated .. ..                    | March-April .. ..    | CO. 419, 449 and 467.   |
| <b>GROUNDNUT.</b>                  |                      |   |
|                                    | July to December ..  | TMV 1.<br>TMV 2.<br>TMV 3.  |

The use of improved strains of seeds are becoming increasingly popular in the District. In the First Plan period, 108 tons of improved strains of paddy were distributed in the District. The corresponding figure in the Second Plan period amounted to 375 tons. The amount of improved strains of seeds distributed in respect of small crops (chulam, cumbu and ragi) during the First and Second Plan periods respectively were 24 tons and 64 tons. Four hundred and forty-two tons of improved strains of cotton seeds were distributed in the District during the First Plan period. In the Second Plan period the corresponding amount distributed was 884 tons. Besides these a considerable amount of short-term paddy seeds were also distributed to the ryots of the District at concessional rates.

<sup>1</sup> *Vide* Government of Madras (Department of Agriculture)—*Villagers' Calendar* 1960-61 (Tamil).

*Method of Seed Multiplication in the District:*—The paddy seeds which are received from the Research Stations after ascertaining the suitability for the district are grown in the State Seed Farms and multiplied. Occasionally, due to inadequate acreage in the State Seed Farms, the seeds are also being supplied to the ryots for further multiplication under primary seed farm conditions. The seeds produced by these farms are procured by the Government through the Agricultural Extension Officers of the respective Blocks. Good quality of seeds alone are procured. Adequate care is bestowed on the primary seed farms from sowing to harvest. To get a clean produce for seed purposes and also to stimulate the enthusiasm of the growers, the Government gives 15 per cent and 12½ per cent premium to the fine variety and coarse variety seeds respectively. The primary seeds are distributed to the various Blocks according to the ½ coverage basis for further multiplication, under secondary seed farms or under the Gramasahayak Service Scheme, so as to cover the entire area of the village under the improved variety within a period of 3 years. Here also to maintain purity of the seeds exchanged and also to encourage the growers, the Government allow a premium of Rs. 5 per quintal of seeds exchanged by the Gramasahayaks. The crop is under the close watch of the village level workers. After harvest, the germination and purity test and also all other important features are observed. Then the bags containing tested seeds are sealed for further distribution to the ryots in the next year. In this way the entire area of the village under paddy is programmed to be covered within 3 years.

The methods adopted for multiplication of paddy seed are also generally adopted in respect of millets.

The Green manure is the only criterion to make good the deficiency of organic manure and the seeds are being produced in seed farms arranged in private holdings. Similarly the seeds are also purchased from the merchants and distributed to the ryots at concessional rates through the Panchayat Unions.

The Government is giving subsidy to the growers (seed farm ryots) as premium at various rates according to the nature of crops, yield, etc., for paddy, millets, green manure seeds, oilseeds, cotton, etc.

#### MAINTENANCE OF SOIL FERTILITY.

*Manures and Fertilisers:*—All through his existence on this earth, man has depended on the fertility of the soil either directly or indirectly for the production of his food and clothing and materials for fuel and shelter. Forage crops on which our domestic animals feed are also the immediate products of the soil. Men's well being, in fact his very existence, depends upon what he is able to produce from the soil. A barren soil, bereft of all fertility

will not produce crops or forage. Human life and prosperity are conditioned by the rational use of the soil, by wise management, adequate manuring and proper conservation. These are the three factors contributing to soil fertility and soil productivity.

For the production of good crops a farmer should maintain conditions in the soil that are favourable for plant growth. The maintenance of desirable physical conditions in the soil is an important factor. The physical condition is important as deciding cultivation practices, aeration, movement of soil water, root development, etc. Chemically, the soil should have a favourable soil reaction. It should not be too acidic or too alkaline and should be free from injurious salts. It should contain fair amounts of organic matter and helpful soil micro-organisms. It should also contain fair amount of plant nutrients. Each of these factors are inter-dependant. Except in a few unfavourable areas, most of the South Indian soils could be made to produce profitable crops by proper conservation and manuring as they are inherently endowed with all the factors of soil fertility stated above. All soils contain organic matter in varying amounts. Indeed, the organic matter status is one measure of soil fertility. The organic matter in a soil has come from the decomposition of plant residues. These residues of higher plants are excellent food for the bacteria and the other small organisms found in the soil. As soon as they are added, the soil organisms start decomposing them. The easily available organic residues disappear as a source of nutrients and energy to the organisms, and the rest are left behind. They temporarily accumulate in the soil. Thus the organic matter found in the soil are of many forms, the easily decomposed, the decomposable material, the undecomposable and so on. The final products of decomposition are carbon-di-oxide, water and nitrogen compounds in an available form to crops. Apart from fertilizers that may be added, organic matter is the only source of nitrogen required by crops. As nitrogen is the most important plant nutrient, plants require it in large quantities and it comes from the decomposition of the organic matter in the soil. The soil supply of nitrogen can be supplemented by adding nitrogenous fertilisers for higher yields. The soil contains only very small quantities of organic matter. In general, it varies from  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in poor soils to 2 per cent in very fertile soils. Some forest and other soils may contain very much larger quantities. A soil with 2 per cent organic matter contains about 700 lbs. nitrogen to the acre, within a depth of about six inches. But all this is not available for the crop at a time. It has been estimated that less than one tenth may be available during an average crop period. Hence the need arises to apply fertilisers. Apart from supplying nitrogen, soil organic matter is useful to give a good structure to the soil and to obtain a good tilth. It helps to reduce fixation of plant nutrients and also make them more available. The soil organic matter is also useful,

in various other ways. Hence the need arises to apply cattle manure compost or green manures to the soil from time to time to maintain fair amounts of organic matter in the soil. The level of plant nutrients in the soil is most important for the production of good yields. Cattle manure compost, green leaf manures and commercial fertilisers are commonly applied to maintain fertility. As known at present plants require about 17 elements for their good growth and high productivity. Of these nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most important and are likely to be most deficient in soils. Generally in manuring these three major elements are attempted to be supplied.

When crops are grown in a field, harvested and removed, the crops remove plant food from the soil and utilise them for their growth. Each crop is thus draining the soil of nutrients and even a very fertile soil will sooner or later reflect this drain by smaller and smaller yields. A good crop of paddy removes above 100 pounds of nitrogen, 40 lbs. of phosphatic plant food ( $P_2O_5$ ) and over 150 lbs. of pottassic plant food ( $K_2O$ ). Apart from crop removal plant foods are lost from the soil in various other ways. Hence the need arises for adequate manuring.

A fertile soil could be maintained in good productivity and also improved by setting right the causes that bring about a reduction in the fertility. Soil exhaustion could be avoided by a judicious rotation of crops following (allowing a field to remain uncropped for one or more seasons) and by regular and adequate manuring, especially with organic manures. Fertilisers may be used to supplement the organic manures when the latter are insufficient.

*Rotation of crops* :—Rotation of crops is growing a certain number of crops in a regular sequence on the same land during a certain period. Rotation helps in the maintenance of fertility by making a regulated demand of plant foods in the soil and enriches the soil in nitrogen and humus when legumes are grown in rotation and ploughed in. It keeps down weeds and plant parasites and helps to control plant pests and diseases. Rotation also minimises soil erosion, helps conservation of moisture and gives a better distribution of work and regulated income. There is also a reduced risk of failure of crops due to adverse weather conditions.

For inclusion in a rotation, crops should be carefully selected. Besides suitability to climate, soil and environment of a tract, the crops should have different feeding habits, different requirements of plant foods and different cultural requirements etc. Crops which enrich the soil as legumes and green manures and a fallow which gives rest to the land for natural recuperation should be included in a rotation.

Despite advantages, rotation of crops has also certain disadvantages. Less remunerative crops have to be grown for the sake of rotation. As there is no specialisation, work in a farm which adopts rotation of crops is less efficient.



The common rotation of crops followed in the District is as follows :—

*Wet lands:—*

- (1) Paddy—Ground-nut—Paddy.
- (2) Paddy—Cotton—Paddy.

*Dry Lands.—*

- (1) Cumbu—Ground-nut.
- (2) Ragi—Ground-nut.
- (3) Cumbu—Cumbu.

In wet lands cotton is raised after paddy because a fair yield of about 2 *Pothies* of cotton are usually got with a minimum of irrigation.

*Kuthiravali* and *Ragi* are raised as mixed crops with dry cotton and coriander grown as an inter-crop. This is the usual practice in the Aruppukkottai Taluk.

*Fallowing :—*Fallowing is allowing a field to remain without cropping for a season or more between successive croppings.

Fallowing helps to maintain soil fertility by increasing the store of plant feeds, conserving soil moisture and helping to check plant pests and diseases just as in the case of rotation. There are different kinds of fallows adopted according to the condition of the field. When a field is allowed to remain as it is without any cultivation or cropping for one or more seasons, it is known as a bare fallowing. When a field is either ploughed or cultivated and left in that condition without cropping till the next season, it is said to be under ploughed or cultivated fallow. Growing a green manure crop while a field is allowed to remain fallow is known as "Green fallow". This helps to check weed growth and enrich the soil in humus and nitrogen. In wet lands where ploughing is considered injurious to the soil and in places when bare fallow encourages weed growth it is considered better to practise green fallow. It prevents soil erosion in places where bare of cultivated fallows will encourage erosion.

In the District leasing lands fallow for one season is also occasionally practised.

*Mixed Crops :—*Crop mixture is a system of agriculture in which two or more crops are grown together at the same time in the same land. The practice of mixed cropping is more commonly adopted in the cultivation of rain-fed lands. In growing mixed crops there is a sort of rotation. The individuals of one variety of crops have the chance of exchanging their place with others in the mixture in different season and render the benefits of rotation. This

practice is adopted as a safeguard against a total failure of crops in unfavourable seasons. The practice is common in precarious tracts and the number of crops included in a mixture increase in proportion to the insecurity. It helps to keep up the supply of nitrogen in the soil and for maintaining soil fertility and preventing soil erosion. It supplies most of the personal needs of the cultivator from the small piece of land he owns, and utilises the limited family labour available to the best advantage. This acts as a safeguard against complete loss due to the attack of pests and diseases. The latter also do not spread rapidly.

In the Ramanathapuram District crop mixture is practised as below:—

- (i) Horse gram *plus* Green gram with Ground-nut.
- (ii) Cotton with vegetables like Cluster beans.

**Manures :—**Of the various elements required for plant growth nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most important. These major plant nutrients are used in such large amounts in the process of plant growth that in many soils the available quantities get easily depleted and their replenishment in the form of manures or fertilisers is absolutely essential if soil fertility and crop yields are to be maintained at a high level year after year.

Plenty of nitrogen is available in heavy organic manures such as green manure, farmyard manure, town refuse, compost and compost made from vegetable and village wastes. The value of organic manures lies in that they supply not only nitrogen but also other elements including trace elements and hormones and the very essential complex compound called “humus” which is vital for preserving the fertility of the soil. This reason by itself justifies the utmost attention being devoted to increase the organic manurial resources of the state apart from the compelling necessity for doing so which has now arisen in view of the shortage of chemical fertilisers. Oilcakes are another source of nitrogen but as most of them are valuable as cattle food their use as manure has to be avoided if substitutes could be obtained.

With a view to improve the level of production of farm yard manure and other organic manures in the villages, intensive extension on the proper methods of collection and preservation of farm yard manure is being carried on. The importance of collecting cattle urine and preserving it properly by dry earth system is stressed. The farmers are induced to collect, store and preserve manure in properly laid pits. Wherever possible, the loose box system of tethering cattle and preserving the manure under the feet of cattle is also advocated. In view of the importance of addition of organic matter to the soil to keep up the soil fertility and productivity and in view of the dearth of adequate quantity of farm yard manure, the department encourages ryots to compost the waste vegetable matter like dried

leaves, grasses, crop residues, etc., and thus increase the supply of organic manure. Another important source of organic manure is the urban compost made of night soil and street sweepings. A very satisfactory way of disposing of these urban wastes is to compost them and produce a brownish friable mass which easily crumbles into powder and is also free from objectionable odour. Technical advice and assistance are given to the municipalities and panchayats for the manufacture of this compost which has become very popular with the ryots.

An easy method of enriching the soil and crop productivity is the growing of leguminous crops in the fields and ploughing them *in situ*. There are a number of suitable crops to choose from. *Kolinji* comes up well in light soils and needs no care practically. *Daincha* or *Phillipesara* are suitable for heavy soils. *Daincha* is tolerant to alkalinity and *Phillipesara* is a nutritious green fodder. *Sesbasia* is a high yielding cosmopolitan which is becoming very popular among the ryots.

Want of irrigational facilities, cattle trespass and intensive cultivation are some factors which limit the spread of green manure over larger areas. Besides green manure crops, intensive efforts are also made to persuade the farmers to grow green leaf-yielding plants and shrubs on fields bunds, tank bunds, poramboks and vacant sites by distributing seeds, seedlings, stem cuttings, etc. *Gliricidia*, an introduced plant from Ceylon is becoming popular and the other trees that are used for this purpose are neem, *pungam*, *poovarasu*, etc.

During the post-war period, food shortage resulted in the shooting up of the prices of the essential agricultural products and there was heavy demand for the manures in the country. The Manure Dealers Licensing Order of 1943 was promulgated and the distribution of concentrated organic manures and fertilisers was undertaken by the department and this resulted in a fair and equitable distribution of manures and the prices also got stabilized. From 1951 onwards the distribution has been taken up by co-operative societies and selected private firms. The most commonly used fertiliser is ammonium sulphate and the other nitrogenous fertilisers which are becoming popular are urea, ammonium sulphate nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate. Of late progressive ryots have taken up to the use of potassic fertilisers also. At present, the use of mixed fertilisers is becoming wide spread. For safeguarding the interests of the farmers and to see that farmers get good quality fertilisers at fair prices, the Fertiliser Control Order is being implemented in the State from September 1957. Under the provisions of this order, it is obligatory on the part of the firms preparing manure mixtures and dealers distributing fertilizers to take out licenses. They also exhibit the composition of the mixtures and fertilizers and have the selling prices approved by the Director of Agriculture.

The doses of organic manures and fertilisers recommended for some of the important crops are given below:

| Crop.     |    |    | Bulky<br>organic<br>manure. | Ammonium<br>sulphate. | Super<br>phosphate. | Muriate<br>of<br>potash. | Remarks<br>if any.                    |
|-----------|----|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1)       |    |    | (2)                         | (3)                   | (4)                 | (5)                      | (6)                                   |
| Paddy     | .. | .. | 5,000 lbs.                  | 150 lbs.              | 150 lbs.            | 30 lbs.                  | ..                                    |
| Cholan    | .. | .. | 5 tons<br>F.Y.M.            | 200,,                 | 25 lbs.             | ..                       | ..                                    |
| Ragi      | .. | .. | Do.                         | 200 ,,                | 125 ,,              | ..                       | ..                                    |
| Cotton    | .. | .. | Do.                         | 200 ,,                | 100 ,,              | 30 lbs.                  | ..                                    |
| Sugarcane | .. | .. | 10                          | 625 ,,                | 400 ,,              | 160                      | 1,560 lbs.<br>ground-<br>nut<br>cake. |
| Banana    | .. | .. | 10                          | 1,000                 | 460                 | 500                      | ..                                    |
| Groundnut | .. | .. | 5 tons<br>F.Y.M.            | 75                    | 200                 | 90                       | ..                                    |

For dry land crops, 3 to 5 tons of farm yard manure or compost is recommended.

The Department of Agriculture impresses on the ryots in the District the importance of green manure and compost with the intensive propaganda on green manures. Large areas are covered with *Daincha* in Manamadurai and Paramagudi blocks while *Kolinji* covers large areas in the coastal taluks. The correct method of scientific preparation of compost on a large scale is popularised by special staff viz., Compost Development Inspectors in the Blocks. Urban compost is also becoming popular in the District. During the ten years of the First and Second Plan periods, 15,935 tons of chemical fertilisers were distributed in the District. During the same period, 1,16,249 tons of urban compost, 3,19,792 tons of rural compost and 479 tons of green manure were distributed in the District.

#### PLANT PROTECTION

##### *Agricultural Pests And Their Control :—*

**Plant Protection:—**The crops are exposed to a variety of pests and diseases. The house fly is only one among the many thousands of insects which entomologists have counted and located in the world. It has been estimated that the farmers in India are losing annually many crores of rupees worth of crops due to pests and diseases which could be very much reduced, if proper measures are taken at the proper time.

For instance some pests can be easily controlled by mechanical methods by catching and killing. Clean cultivation also helps to control several pests. To begin with, good ploughing exposes insects and their pupae either to their enemies or to unfavourable conditions and they get destroyed. Destruction of crop residues and weeds helps in reducing pest damage by removing alternative resting places. Rotation of crops is a potent factor in reducing insect pests by avoiding facilities for continuous living of the insects on the host plant. Biological method of control is also a very effective method for certain types of pests.

Among the various methods of control of insects, the one that is widely adopted is the chemical control. Recent developments in the chemical control of pests started from the middle of the last century, when arsenic containing chemicals including Paris Green, proved effective for beetle control. From the beginning of the twentieth century, the control of pests by chemicals has extended enormously. Today, there are chemicals to control almost all pests of crops.

Insects that destroy crops are of two kinds, those that feed by biting and chewing the plant parts and those that feed by sucking the juice. Of the biting type, there are the caterpillars like the red hairy caterpillars of ground nut, the leaf eating beetles, the brinjals beetle, the chilli thrips etc., which are usually controlled by means of an insecticide that distributes over the entire plant surface or by a systematic insecticide which permeates the plant itself. The sucking insect needs a different treatment as they feed on the juice by sucking it from the interior of the plant. For controlling this, a chemical is used which will kill the pest by being absorbed in the body tissue of the plant from a simple contact of a spray. Though apparently this is a simple statement of the manner of killing, named as stomach poisons and contact poisons, modern insecticides sometimes act in both ways and may also be translocated in the plant itself.

Chemicals used for control are of different kinds. They are grouped as stomach poisons, the arsenate poisons, etc. The contact insecticides like DDT, BHC, Parathion compounds, etc., act by moving through the cuticle into the insect body and kill it either by affecting primary body function or by secondary action on the nervous or respiratory system. There is considerable difference in the speed of action as well. The systematic insecticides are exciting new materials, acting as stomach poisons. They pervade the plant system after spraying and the killing is effected after ingestion. Parathion compounds like Folidol, etc., act in this way. It is important that these chemicals are applied by using the proper chemicals at the proper time and in the proper dose for maximum effectiveness. Some of them can be applied even as prophylactic which prevents insects from attacking a crop.

The time has now come, when the farmer can increase production and earn greater profits through plant protection by chemical means. Indeed investment on insecticides and fungicides is as much important now as investment on fertilisers. Modern insecticides can be broadly classified under four popular groups from the farmer's point of view, though chemists may object to such a popular classification.

*Organic Chloride Compounds As Insecticides:*—DDT is a very well known organic chlorine insecticide found very useful since the Second World War when it was extensively used for killing the malarial mosquitoes. DDT is a contact insecticide, where the killing is effected by the chemical moving through the cuticle into the insect body. DDT is effective on a wide range of insects such as the house flies, mosquitoes, lice, fleas, bed bugs, caterpillars, beetles, leaf hoppers and plant bugs. It is ineffective against red spiders, the cotton boll weevil and many aphids. It can be dusted in a powder form. It is also available as a wettable powder for making spray suspensions.

BHC was discovered in France in 1941. This is also a chlorinated compound. This insecticide has shown much promise and is useful where DDT has failed. BHC is useful against a variety of pests including aphids and thrips.

Chlordane, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin are other organic chlorine compounds allied to each other. Aldrin and Dieldrin are useful for the control of certain pests found in the soil affecting the root system. Endrin is a general insecticide useful against several pests.

*Organic Phosphorus Insecticides:*—Parathion, Malathion, Diazinon etc., belong to the organic phosphorus group of insecticides. This group has become very important in pest control. All these compounds are highly toxic to man and animals. They possess very high toxicity to insects even when diluted to 0.025 per cent concentration.

Parathion is the most important organic phosphorus insecticide. It is the chemical compound contained in many insecticides like Folidol, Paramar, etc.

Diazinon is another related compound. Malathion is also another allied compound marketed under different trade names.

All the organic phosphorous insecticides are of recent development and are highly toxic and so are extremely valuable as insecticides over a wide range of insects and mites, but all the same they pose very difficult problems associated with safety in use both for man and animals.

*Organic Sulphur Compounds:*—Included among them are some carbonates, thiram derivatives, mercaptans, etc. They have not become so popular in our State so far, though a few carbonates are used in some formulations.

**Organic Nitrogen Compounds:**—Like the sulphur compounds, nitrogen compounds have also not become very popular in this country. Nicotine is a naturally occurring compound of this group used for a number of purposes and search for other similar compounds, is going on for use in pest control.

The following table shows the major pests that attack important crops and the measures generally recommended by the Department to control them:

| <i>Crop.</i>     | <i>Popular name of the pest.</i>           | <i>Control measures generally recommended by the Agricultural Department.</i>   |
|------------------|--|---|
| (1)              | (2)  | (3)   |
| I. Paddy ..      | .. The paddy stem borer ..                 | Application of Parathion (Folidol E. 605 one ounce in 12½ gallons of water) thrice the first of the nursery state, a week before lifting of the seedlings; the second about 10–15 days after planting; and the third at the shot blade stage of the crop. These treatments would control jassid, mealy bug, caseworm and rice bug also. Spraying BHC (1 lb. of 50 per cent of wettable powder in 13 gallons of water) at similar intervals may also be adopted. |
|                  | The green jassied of paddy ..              | Dust DDT 5 per cent.  |
|                  | The rice bug ..                            | Dust BHC 10 per cent.   |
| II. Millets ..   | .. The cholam earhead bug.                 | Dust BHC 10 per cent just at the time when the ear heads emerge from the leaf sheath. One more treatment may be given after an interval of 10 days to give complete protection.   |
|                  | Mites .. ..                                | Dust sulphur.   |
|                  | Ragi root aphid ..                         | Packing up of the soil around infested plants and applying of BHC 10 per cent dust, mixing of crude oil emulsion in irrigation water.   |
| III. Oilseeds .. | .. The red hairy caterpillar of groundnut. | Dust BHC 10 per cent against small and medium sized caterpillars. Spray Parathion (Folidol one ounce in 6½ gallons) or dust Toxaphene 20 per cent against full grown caterpillars. It would be advantageous to take action against the first mentioned stages of the caterpillar, so as to ensure maximum control.  |

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| The coconut caterpillar. |   | Spray DDT (one ounce of 50 per cent wettable powder in 2.3 gallons of water) in case of young trees, release of parasite in the case of tall trees.   |
| The rhinoceros beetle .. |   | Remove the beetle with the help of beetle rods, application of BHC 10 per cent mixed with sand in equal proportions at the leaf axile, treatment of manure pits with BHC 10 per cent dust or spray.                                     |
| The cotton boll worm ..  |   | Application of Parathion (Folidol one ounce in 12½ gallons of water) three rounds at intervals of three weeks. The first round of treatment may be given six weeks after sowing.  |
| Aphids and Jassids. ..   |   | Application of Parathion (Folidol one ounce in 20 gallons of water)   |
| Tobacco                  | The tobacco aphid ..                            | Application of Parathion (one ounce of Folidol in 20 to 25 gallons of water). Two rounds of treatment at intervals of a fortnight would give complete relief.   |
| Vegetables               | Brinjal epilachna beetle.                       | Dust calcium arsenate plus lime mixed in the proportion of 1 : 4.   |
|                          | The chillies thrips.                            | Dust BHC 10 per cent or spray BHC 50 per cent wettable powder (one lb. in 13 gallons of water). Two to three rounds at intervals of three weeks may be given to ensure complete protection.   |
|                          | Plant lice (Aphids) on a variety of vegetables. | Spray Hexa Ethyl Tetra Phosphate (one ounce in 6½ gallons of water) or tobacco decoction plus soap.   |
| Miscellaneous crops.     | Field rats .. ..                                | Baiting with zinc phosphide-one part of poison mixed with 49 parts of suitable base like puffed rice. It would be advantageous to adopt pre-baiting with unpoisoned food for one or two days and then follow it up with poison baiting. |

In the District, the pest on coconut, viz., *Nephantis Serinopa* is controlled biologically by releasing every year the *Bethylid* and *Enlophid* parasites which destroy the pests.



The outbreak of red hairy caterpillar pest on groundnut every year in Singampunari, Sivaganga, Tiruppattur, Tirupuvanam, Paramagudi and Bogalur Blocks in the District is controlled by taking systematic plant protection measures. These consist of collection of pupae and destroying them, putting up of light traps and putting up of born fires to attract moths and destroying them, collection of egg masses and dusting or spraying the groundnut crops when the caterpillars are young.

*Plant Diseases* :—Diseases of plants are caused by parasitic agencies like fungi, bacteria and viruses. They are also caused by the disturbance of vital physiological functions on account of lack of balanced nutrition or unsuitable environmental conditions.

*Fungus Diseases* :—Among crop diseases, that occur in South India, those caused by fungi are by far the most important. Fungi are minute organisms belonging to the vegetable kingdom. Many of them are adapted for a parasite mode of life, while some are adapted for living on dead organic matter. Parasitic fungi attack all parts of the plant such as root, stem, leaves, flowers, fruit, seed, etc., and cause damage to those parts. Their presence in the crop plant is manifested by symptoms, such as wilting, rotting, leaf spot, hardening of tissues, rusts, smutted ear heads and so on. But the fungi themselves can usually be seen only with the aid of a microscope. The diseases caused by fungi spread from plant to plant by means of minute seed like bodies called spores, which are carried by wind, water or other agencies. Some fungi swell in the soil and infect crop plants, at the root region. Among fungi which cause crop diseases, many are capable of infecting weeds, and other plants and this helps them to survive during the off-season.

*Bacterial Diseases* :—Generally in South India very few bacterial diseases occur. The symptoms of the diseases are generally similar to those caused by fungi. Black arm of cotton, and canker in citrus are caused by bacteria. They are amenable to control by application of suitable chemicals.

*Virus Diseases* :—The viruses which cause virus diseases in plants are not visible even with the aid of microscope and their presence is inferred only by the symptoms seen on the host plant and the infectious nature of the diseases. Mosaics of *bhendai*, sugarcane and tobacco ; little leaf of brinjal and marble disease of cardamoms are examples of such diseases. These are not amenable to chemical measures of control. The only means of controlling them would appear to be eradication of diseased plants, and in the case of cardamoms raising new plantations from disease-free seeds instead of from rhizomes.

*Nutritional Disorders* :—Plants also show abnormalities due to, lack of balanced nutrition, including the trace elements like zinc, magnesium, manganese, copper, iron etc. The defects can be

rectified by application of the needed element, in a suitable form, either to the soil, or the foliage as spray. Zinc deficiency is common in South India in the *Sathugudi* oranges. This can be rectified by application of zinc sulphate lime solution.

**Green parasites** :—Parasitic green plants like orobanche, striga or cuscuta often cause trouble to crop growth in crops like tobacco and cholam. Control measures consist in destroying the parasitic plants without injuring the crop plant. Chemical means are available but mechanical removal has been found to be more economical under South Indian conditions.

### IMPORTANT PLANT DISEASES AND THEIR REMEDIES.

| <i>Name of the crop.</i> | <i>Disease.</i>             | <i>Medical measures.</i>  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| (1)                      | (3)                         | (3)   |
| 1. Paddy .. ..           | Blast .. ..                 | Spraying copper fungicides like Bordeaux mixture in the nursery and transplanted crop, judicious nitrogenous manuring, growing resistant varieties like ADT. 25 and CO. 26, where these are suitable. |
| 2. Ragi .. ..            | Blast .. ..                 | Spraying Bordeaux mixture.  |
| 3. Cholam .. ..          | Grain smut .. ..            | Seed treatment with sulphur.  |
| 4. Sugarcane .. ..       | Smut .. ..                  | Eradication of smutted clumps.  |
| 5. Groundnut .. ..       | Tikka leaf spot .. ..       | Spraying 3 to 4 per cent Bordeaux mixture or dusting with finely ground sulphur.  |
| 6. Cotton .. ..          | Black arm .. ..             | Seed treatment with Agrosan and spraying copper fungicides.   |
| 7. Chillies .. ..        | Fruit rot .. ..             | Spraying 1 per cent Bordeaux mixture or other fungicides.   |
|                          | Root rot .. ..              | Drenching with Cerasan (wet).   |
| 8. Citrus .. ..          | Dieback .. ..               | Spraying copper fungicides like Bordeaux mixture with urea. Pruning diseased branches.  |
|                          | Zinc Deficiency .. ..       | Spraying zinc sulphate lime solution.   |
|                          | Mildew .. ..                | Dusting with sulphur or spraying with wettable sulphur.   |
| 9. Mango .. ..           | Dieback and leaf spot .. .. | Pruning the affected branches and spraying with Bordeaux mixture  |
| 10. Tobacco .. ..        | Damping off .. ..           | Drenching the soil with Bordeaux mixture once in a fortnight in the nursery.  |

During the First and Second Plan periods a good number of medicinal sprayers were distributed to the ryots in the District. A good amount of pesticides was also distributed.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

The following is in general the procedure adopted by the Agricultural Department in spreading scientific methods of agricultural practices among the ryots of the District.

In general a number of demonstration and observation plots are laid out to show the differences between the improved agricultural practices and the indigeneous ones. After these are established and the results are accepted by the ryots by ocular demonstrations, they are induced to adopt the improved practices in their fields on a large scale.

In the new panchayat set up besides the *Gramasevaks* and the other staff of the Block, the non-official members like the Village Panchayat Presidents-cum-Union Councillors also play an important roll in spreading the knowledge of scientific agriculture among the ryots. They talk freely to the cultivators, and induce them to adopt the improved and scientific methods of cultivation.

#### EXHIBITIONS AND SHOWS AND CROP COMPETITION.

Exhibitions and shows are conducted during festivals and fairs where people gather in large numbers. Exhibitions both at district and taluk levels are generally arranged every year when the various activities of the Agricultural Department are published. Various improved strains of crops suitable for the locality, improved implements, manures, insecticides and live specimens of green manures and fodder grasses are exhibited. Posters and charts in various agricultural topics are put up and these are explained to the visitors. Leaflets are also distributed in large numbers. Use of improved iron ploughs, labour saving implements like bund formers, ridge plough, plant protection equipments like dusters and sprayers are actually demonstrated. These exhibitions are visited by a large number of people and are very popular and serve as a good medium of education.

*Crop Competition*:—One of the means of stepping up food production is by creating a healthy spirit of competition among the farmers. Crop competitions provide stimulus to the farmers to adopt the improved agricultural practices. These competitions are held annually at firka, taluk, district, regional and State levels for important crops like paddy, cholam, cumbu and sugarcane. These competitions are becoming very popular with the farmers and have revealed the possibilities of obtaining phenomenal yields of crops by adopting the scientific methods of agriculture.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TRIALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

The primary purpose of agricultural research work is the acquisition of exact knowledge and the ultimate purpose is the translation of this information into concrete improvements which the cultivators can adopt as part of the ordinary farming practice. This dual aspect of research work in the laboratory and extension in the field may be said to form the main functions of the Agricultural Department. The chief centres of research are the Research Institute at Coimbatore equipped with a staff of specialists and the Research Stations spread all over the State.

Research at the Agricultural College and Research Institute is conducted with the view of helping to increase the agricultural production of the country by improving cultivation practices, breeding better varieties of crops, evolving better manuring and fertiliser practices, controlling plant pests and diseases and also suggesting good storage and preservation methods for agricultural products. By continuous research, answers are found to the several problems which are faced by cultivators in the State.

The sections dealing with paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, oilseeds sugarcane etc., are concerned with crop improvement. The Agronomy and Soil Science Divisions tackle agricultural practices connected with cultivation of crops, manuring, irrigation, etc. The Horticultural section deals with improvement of fruit and vegetable crops and also with ornamental gardening. The Agricultural Engineering section is engaged in devising suitable agricultural implements and other farm equipments and helping the farmers in tapping the underground resources of water and in improving efficiency of the various implements already in use in the State. The Agricultural Meteorology section is engaged in collecting data on local weather elements and correlating the weather data with crop growth as well as with incidence of the pests and diseases. The Entomology and Mycology sections are concerned with problems of plant protection. Extension Division is engaged in the dissemination of results of research to the farmers through the Extension workers in the State and also in bringing the problems of the farmers to the Research workers at Coimbatore for solving them.

*Trials, Demonstrations, etc.*:—One of the important activities of the Department is to run trial and observation plots and demonstrations in the ryots holdings. When an improved strain of a crop or a new cultural or manurial practice is evolved in an Agricultural Research Station, it is tested in ryots' fields under village conditions in a trial plot. The local method is also tried side by side. The results of a number of such trial plots spread over a number of villages and years are studied and if the new method is found to be a definite improvement, it is advocated to the cultivators for adoption. Improvements which have passed through the stage of trial plots

are further taken up for demonstration in farmer's holdings in what are called 'Demonstration plots'. The farmers are thereby enabled to see the improvements and compare them with their own method. Being convinced of the efficiency of the improvement, the farmers adopt the same in their holdings. Several items of improvements like new strains of seeds cultural and manurial practices, conservation of manures, green manuring and others are being demonstrated each year and several improvements have been passed on to the cultivators for adoption. These demonstrations are of two types namely method demonstrations and result demonstrations. In the case of the former, the improved practice like the use of a labour saving implement like a bund former or a wet land puddler or an improved cultural practice like earthing up of a crop or top dressing with fertilizer, is actually demonstrated to the ryots. In the case of the result demonstrations, the result of adoption of an improved practice like the use of an improved strain or use of a chemical fertilizer in the shape of increased crop yields is demonstrated in the ryots holdings.

#### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS, STATE SEED FARMS, ETC.

The Department of Agriculture has evolved a number of high yielding strains of paddy and other crops by intensive selection and breeding suitable to the different regions of the State. Before large scale multiplication and demonstration, these are tried under cultivators, conditions and their considered views regarding the performance of these strains obtained. From the inception of the Department, multiplication and distribution of pure seeds to the cultivators is one of its main functions.

Use of improved strains alone has been found to increase the yield of crops by about 10 to 15 per cent, other conditions remaining normal. As it is not possible to meet the entire demand for improved seeds from the districts with the production of seeds in the different Agricultural Research Stations, arrangements have been made to multiply the seeds in the Districts through the State Seed Farms and Village Seed Farms. The object of the Seed Farm Programme is to cover the entire cultivated area with the seeds of superior quality. There are a large number of State Seed Farms organised where the needs of the principal crops grown in the area such as paddy, millets, cotton, oilseeds and vegetable are multiplied. The nucleus seed material received from the various Agricultural Research Stations are multiplied in these State Seed Farms and the seed materials thus obtained are further multiplied in the Village Seed Farms in the holdings of selected ryots under the personal supervision of the Agricultural Extension Officer. Seeds obtained from the Village Seed Farms are distributed in the villages through the Seed Exchange Programme or sold through the Gramasevaks.

*State Seed Farm, Paramagudi* :—There was an *Agricultural Research Station* at Paramagudi, where trials were being conducted to evolve suitable strains of paddy for the District. The Agricultural Research Station, Paramagudi, was since converted into a State Seed Farm with effect from 1st May 1962. The total area of the Farm is about 25 acres. Improved varieties of vegetables are cultivated in this Farm for seed multiplication. Paddy, ragi, ground-nut, etc., are also being cultivated in this Farm.

Field experiments under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Scheme for the reclamation of saline and alkaline lands were conducted at Nenmeni in the Paramagudi Taluk. The general analysis of the experiments revealed that all treatments including digging of drainage channels, bunding the field, etc., have been effective in reclaiming the soil. It was noteworthy that a plot of land where not even a blade of grass could be grown previously had been brought by the experiments to a condition when it could produce good crop yields.

#### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, SRIVILLIPUTTUR.

This Research Station at Srivilliputtur investigates on long staple cotton and groundnut. They are cultivated on 50 acres of land each.

*State Seed Farm, Devadanam* :—The area of the Farm is now 52.07 acres but there are proposals to further increase the acreage of the Farm.

The Farm is at present managed by one Farm Manager assisted by one Fieldman and one Demonstration Maistry. The main crop grown in this Farm is paddy with the help of tank and well water. The following are the varieties grown : ASD. 5, Co. 29, and TKM. 6.

*State Seed Farm, Pullur* :—This Farm is situated in the Pullur village in the Kariapatti Block at a distance of 3 miles from Kariapatti. The area of the Farm is about 48.87 acres. In the winter season, ragi and ground-nut in wet lands and garden lands and cumbu and fodder cholam in dry lands are raised. In the dry lands *dry cotton*, *Nadan Uppam*, and *K2 cotton* are also being grown. In the summer season, summer cholam is the main crop and short duration cumbu is also raised. In the wet lands, if there is assured water supply, ragi and groundnut are raised.

*State Seed Farm, Devakottai* :—This Farm was started on 1st April 1959, at Uddayachi, Devakottai. The total area of the Farm at present is about 252.41 acres. The entire Farm is divided into 5 acre blocks with main cross roads. Necessary staff quarters, 4 seed godowns and drying platform have also been constructed for the Farm. Borewells have also been sunk successfully. One has been commissioned with submersible pump and arrangements are

under progress to commission, two more bore wells with submersible pumps. When this work is completed it is expected that the three bore wells will help to bring an area of 50 acres under irrigated crops.

Groundnut and millets are being cultivated in this Farm and also irrigated paddy in limited areas.

*State Seed Farm, Karaikkudi, :—*This Farm was started recently on the *poramboke* lands near Karaikkudi. The lands are being prepared for cultivation, and arrangements are being made to obtain water from artesian wells. It has been proposed to cultivate paddy and other crops in this Farm.

*Agricultural School :—*There is an Agricultural School at Paramagudi. This School was started in July 1961 to cater to the needs of the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts. Every year twenty students from the farming class are to be admitted in the School and given intensive training for a period of one academic year under the Agricultural Instructor. A stipend of Rs. 40 per month is to be paid to each student.

*Agricultural Associations :—*Starting agricultural association in another method of introducing improved agricultural practices in the villages, taluks, and district levels. Some of the associations undertake the demonstration of improved cultivation methods and help in disseminating scientific knowledge among the ryots. The interest created among the farmers for the adoption of improved agricultural practices will be of an abiding nature. Farmers have now come to realize the value of improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. The high cost of manual and bullock labour has created a demand for labour-saving implements, heavy machinery and tractors. A number of co-operative societies, rural agricultural bank and such other bodies are now organised to meet the growing needs of the farmers. The future for scientific agriculture in the District is now on firm foundations.

*Co-operative Farming :—*The following is a brief account of the functioning of co-operative farming in the Ramanathapuram district. As on 30th June 1963, there was one Better Farming Society with 16 members and a share capital of Rs. 285. Besides, there were four Tenant Farming Societies consisting of 178 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,680. During 1962-63, the members cultivated lands to the extent of about 171.48 acres. There was also 14 Joint Farming Co-operative Societies as on 30th June 1963. The number of members and the paid-up share capital in the Societies were 487 and Rs. 29,711 respectively. The members have pooled their lands to a total extent of about 1,202.08 acres. During the year 1962-63, 996.90 acres of dry lands and 118.07 acres of wet lands were brought into joint cultivation. An amount of Rs. 2.16

lakhs were sanctioned to the Societies for loan by the Government for the purchase of agricultural implements, pumpsets, bulls and carts and for the construction of godowns, cattle sheds and wells<sup>1</sup>.

*Agricultural Improvement Societies*:—The following table shows the progress made in the formation and the development of business in the Agricultural Improvement Societies in the District<sup>2</sup>.

|  | <i>As on<br/>30th June<br/>1947.</i> | <i>As on<br/>30th June<br/>1953.</i> | <i>As on<br/>30th June<br/>1963.</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1)  | (2)                                  | (3)                                  | (4)                                  |
| 1. Number of Societies .. ..                                       | 12                                   | 13                                   | 12                                   |
| 2. Membership .. ..  | 755                                  | 1,295                                | 1,573                                |
| 3. Paid-up share Capital .. ..                                     | Rs. 12,699                           | Rs. 20,938                           | Rs. 19,067                           |
| 4. Value of agricultural implements, seeds and manure distributed. | Rs. 10,590                           | Rs. 86,749                           | Rs. 40,674                           |

### *Regulated Markets*<sup>3</sup>.—

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Cattle have a very important place in agriculture. Cattle are required for cultivating lands, for lifting water from wells and for carrying the produce from field to market. Agriculture in the country is necessarily dependent on cattle labour. "In most parts of the world, cattle are valued for food and for milk; in India their primary purpose is draught, for the plough or the cart. Without the ox, no cultivation would be possible, without the ox, no produce could be transported<sup>4</sup>."

According to the latest live stock census taken in 1961, the total number of live stock of the District stands at 1,819,625. The density of cattle per square mile in the District has been estimated at 122. The following table shows the details of some of the important live stock in the District<sup>5</sup>.

| <i>Name of the live stock.</i> | <i>Numbers.</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cattle ... ..                  | 6,68,549        |
| Buffaloes ... ..               | 1,27,411        |
| Sheep ... ..                   | 7,11,811        |
| Goat ... ..                    | 2,14,952        |
| Horse and Ponies ... ..        | 370             |

1. and 2 Source:—Special Tahsildar for District Gazetteers, Ramanathapuram.

3. For an account of the working of the regulated markets for agricultural products in the District, please see the section on Regulated Markets in Chapter —VI *Banking, Trade and Commerce*.

4. Royal Commission on Agriculture in India—1928, Page 169.

5. Source : Director of Animal Husbandry, Madras.



The Poultry population of the District stands at 1,083,364.

#### PASTURE AND GRAZE LANDS, AND FODDER CROPS IN THE DISTRICT.

The area under pasture and grass lands in the District has already been referred to. They cover an area of 17,505 hectares or 43,255 acres (1960-61), and form about 1.4 per cent of the total land area in the District.

Among the cultivated perennial grasses in the District, *Guinea grass* is the mainly cultivated fodder crop.

The *Guinea Grass* is an African cultivated crop. It is an excellent and high yielding fodder. The average annual yield is about 21,000 lbs. (in three cuttings) per acre. In the Virudhunagar Municipality, it is grown on a large extent of 12 acres in one plot. Sullage water from a portion of the town is pumped to the Sewage Farm by two electric motors. The sewage water is utilised for growing the *Guinea Grass*. The grass is utilised for the cattle in the town. The *Guinea Grass* grows well in sullage water. The grass is also grown on a large extent in Manamadurai.

This grass is grown throughout the year. The duration of the crop is 45 days. It is harvested leaving a stem of about 3/4 foot from which sprouts fresh leaves. Young plants are transplanted wherever the growth of the grass is affected. Among the special features of *Guinea Grass* are : (i) rapid growth, (ii) requires little attention, (iii) stands in any amount of moisture (iv) it flourishes well even in tropical climate, (v) the quantity of fodder obtained is high ; and (vi) it multiplies itself in abundance.

An area of 29,116 hectares or 71,947 acres of land in the District was under fodder crops in 1960-61, against the normal area of 82,770 acres or 33, 496 hectares.

Cholam fodder is grown in the district for feeding cattle.

*Fodder Cholam*.—The *Sorghum Straw* is considered excellent roughage for cattle. Besides using the straw from a grain crop, in some places *sorghum* is grown purely for the production of fodder. In parts of the Ramanathapuram District a variety of *sorghum* called *Irunghu*, in which the grain is small and almost completely enclosed by the glumes is grown on almost any class of soil. When grown as fodder crop, a greater quantity of seed is sown to obtain a thick stand. The seed rate is about 4 to 10 lbs., for dry land crop and 40 to 60 lbs., for fodder crop.

#### SCHEMES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CATTLE IN THE DISTRICT.

The cattle in the Ramanathapuram District are generally of the non-descriptive type. However, in the case of the sheep, there is a breed called 'Ramnad Breed' popular in the East Ramanathapuram District. The Animal Husbandry Department has

launched various schemes in the District for upgrading of the local cattle. The breeding is done through natural services by bulls of descript breeds such as *Kangayam* for work, *Tharparkar* and *Red Sindhi* for milk and draught. Live-stock breeding is carried out through Artificial Insemination Centres at the Veterinary Hospitals and the Key Village Centres.

The *Kangayam* breed of cattle is one of the finest breeds of Tamil Nad. It is the only one of its kind recognised as of All India importance. It meets to a very large extent the growing needs of the ryots for intensive live-stock improvement work in the District. The breed derives its name from the *Kangayam* division of *Dharampuram* Taluk of the *Coimbatore* District where the breed of cattle is commonly met with. The breed is generally seen only in the *Coimbatore* District. The breed in its purest form and in largest numbers are, however, seen only in the Government Farms of *Chettinad* in the *Ramanathapuram* District and *Pudukkottai* in the *Tiruchirappalli* District and with the *Pattagar* of *Palayakottai*, to whose family the credit of evolving this breed goes.

The breed has a good constitution and is very hardy. It is essentially a draught breed. The breed under the farm conditions at *Hosur* Cattle Farm showed a tendency for increased milk production without deteriorating the draught qualities. It was therefore considered to distribute the *Kangayam* bulls in the rural and urban parts of the State for improving the local non-descript white cattle.

To improve the milk yield of the local non-descript buffaloes, *Murrah* Buffalo-Bulls are being distributed under various schemes in the District.

The following is a brief account of the various schemes of improvement of cattle and buffaloes in operation in the District.

**Key Village Extension Centres :—**Under this scheme every centre is selected according to the cattle population of breedable cows and she-buffaloes. *Kangayam* and *Murrah* buffalow bulls, totally 50 in number are distributed to the cattle breeders of every selected centre and a subsidy of Rs. 30 per mensem for a bull is also paid for the maintenance of the bull. No service fees are collected. There are 8 Key Village Extension Centres functioning in the District. They are located at *Rajasingamangalam*, *Tiruvadana*, *Paramagudi*, *Nainarkoil*, *Sattur*, *Sivakasi*, *Srivilliputtur* and *Kanniseripudur*. There are 2 Key Village Extension Centres functioning at *Chettinad* and *Tiruppattur* in the District.

**Artificial Insemination Centres :—**Artificial insemination is being carried out having a few exotic breed of cattle like *Kangayam*, *Sindhi* and *Murrah* buffaloes to improve the non-descript local breeds of cattle. No service fees are collected.

There are two Artificial Insemination Centres in the District located at Virudhunagar and Sivaganga.

*Premium Scheme* :—For the improvement of the local breeds of cattle of the village which are not covered by the above said schemes, pure breeding bulls are distributed at half cost by National Extension the service Blocks. To maintain the bull, a sum of Rs. 200. per Kangayam or other bulls for one year and Rs. 220 per Murrah Buffaloe bull is being sanctioned towards 'Premium' by the Animal Husbandry Department. Nearly, 178 breeding bulls have been distributed in the various blocks of this District, under the scheme.

*Bulls maintained at Veterinary Institutions* :—To improve local breed of cattle in urban areas, exotic breeding bulls are maintained by the Department at selected Veterinary Institutions. There are four such Veterinary Institutions in the District located at Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Devakottai and Ramanathapuram.

*Mass Castration of Local Non-descript Bulls* :—To avoid non-descriptive breed, all scrub bulls are being castrated by the staff of the Animal Husbandry Department under mass castration campaign in the District.

*Milk Supply Societies* :—To improve the production of milk in the District and to secure better distribution of milk in rural parts, there were 72 Milk Supply Societies in the District during 1960-61. In 1959-60, the Virudhunagar Milk Supply Co-operative Society was acclaimed as the best working Society in the State. This Society is running a farm at about 4 miles from Virudhunagar for improving dry cattle. The Srivilliputtur and Virudhunagar milk Supply Societies have established themselves with machinery for the production of improved cattle feed. The Manamadurai Co-operative Milk Supply Society has also a van for distributing the surplus milk in neighbouring towns. Towards the cost of the van, the Government have given a loan of Rs. 15,000.

*The Ramanathapuram District Live-stock Farm, Chettinad* :—The Farm opened under the Second Five-Year plan is located on the Karaikkudi-Tiruchirapalli Trunk Road at about 9 miles from Karaikkudi. The nearest Railway Station to the Farm is Chettinad. The total area of the Farm is about 1,906 acres. It started functioning from 9th November 1956.

*Objects of the Farm* :—The Ramanathapuram District is poor in cattle wealth. The type of cattle found in general is only non-descriptive. No recognised breeds of cattle or breeders to any appreciable extent are available in this area. This Farm, therefore, aims at : (a) To serve as Demonstration and Training Centre to the public on scientific feeding, breeding, housing and management of cattle, including pasture management, fodder production,

etc. demonstrating the cattle-land relationship to the mutual benefit and hygienic milk production and handling of milk and milk products.

(b) Maintenance of approved breeds of cattle like *Kangayam*, *Tharparker*, *Hariana* and *Murrah* buffaloes with particular reference to assess their adaptability to the climatic, geological and environmental conditions of the area and to make available stud bulls of acclimatised strains of these breeds for the improvement of local type of cattle.

(c) To undertake research on breeding and other problems connected with animal husbandry.

(d) Fodder production and pasture managements, primarily to meet the requirements of the Farm and incidentally to study the local varieties of grasses, etc., to explore the possibilities of improving their yield quantitatively and qualitatively and also to study the adaptability of different forage crops to the climatic and geological conditions of the area. The seed materials of proven strains of forage crops and grass will be made available to the public in due course. Incidentally also contribute to the public health of the area by making available wholesome milk and milk products though to a limited extent.

The pedigree bulls produced in the Farm are supplied to the field for grading up of the local cattle in the District through natural and artificial live-stock breeding methods.

*The Poultry Extension Centre* :—This Centre was started on 21st November 1960 with a foundation stock of 90 hens and 10 cocks. From the starting of the Centre, 5,500 birds have been supplied to various Community Development Blocks for improving the *Desi* birds. Day old chicks to the age of one week are supplied to the interested breeders with facilities like breeders, etc.

Two 'Bell' incubators and four 'Favourite' incubators are maintained in this Farm and altogether they take up the capacity of 2,896 eggs at a time.

One Research unit is functioning in this Farm, to produce *Asil* birds of various varieties for research of the *Asil* breeds.

*The Sheep Unit* :—A Sheep Unit has been started with 78 heads of sheep received from Kattupakkam on 29th November 1961. 166 sheep (6 Rams and 160 Ewes) were purchased during February-March 1962. Now the total of sheep in the Unit is 329.

*Soil Conservation* :—Contour bunds were formed to a length of 41 miles and 7.2 furlongs covering about 1,600 acres.

*Other activities* :—1. The Farm affords visual demonstration on various aspects of cattle management, land reclamation, crop husbandry, contour bunding and training in Poultry Husbandry

2. A stockmen course has also been functioning in the farm since 1st August 1963.

3. A Scheme for fattening of ram lambs has been sanctioned and the work is to be started after purchase of the required animals.

4. The establishment of the *State Live-stock Research Station* at the Ramanathapuram District Live-stock Farm, Chettinad has also been sanctioned and to begin with the *Animal Nutrition Section* has been established and it is functioning since July 1963.

5. *Upgrading of village Poultry* :—In this Scheme the exotic cockerels are being supplied from the Animal Husbandry Department grants on exchange basis, to the interested poultry farmers selected from the National Extension Service Block areas.

6. *Improvement of village Poultry House* :—To encourage poultry breeders, a subsidy of Rs. 50 or half cost of a poultry house whichever is less is paid.

7. *Subsidy for raising day old chicks* :—Exotic day old chicks produced in the Government Poultry Extension Centres are being supplied at half cost to the interested poultry breeders of the District.

8. *Provision of incubators to Poultry farmers* :—Subsidy of Rs. 250 or half cost of the incubator purchased by the poultry breeders whichever is less is being granted for improving the exotic poultry breed.

*Piggery Development Scheme* :—Under the Third Five-Year Plan a Piggery Development Scheme is implemented in Block areas. Under this scheme, exotic boars are sold to pig breeders at a subsidized rate of Rs. 10 per boar. The boar so distributed shall be paid subsidy of Rs. 5 per boar per month. The boar will be continued in the Scheme normally for a period of three years subject to the party fulfilling the conditions of the scheme.

*Sheep Breeding*.—Ramanathapuram rams are being supplied to the sheep breeders of Development Blocks on exchange basis and scrub rams are castrated.

There is one Sheep Demonstration Unit at Virudhunagar consisting of one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and two Flock Men, functioning in the District. Selected *Ramanathapuram rams* are distributed to the sheep breeders and deticking and deworming of sheep and goats of the District are also being carried out by the Sheep Unit.

*Poultry Farming.*—The total number of poultry in the District according to live-stock census taken in 1961 is 1,083,364 as detailed below :—

|         |    |    |           |
|---------|----|----|-----------|
| Fowls   | .. | .. | 1,078,513 |
| Ducks.. | .. | .. | 4,259     |
| Others  | .. | .. | 592       |

The population is mostly of indigenous types. The Animal Husbandry Department is endeavouring to supply exotic breeds of poultry such as White Leghorns and *Rhode Island Reds* to the poultry keepers. The indigenous stock are simultaneously being graded up with the cockerels of the exotic varieties. Poultry extension centres have been started during the plan period at Anupankulam, Palyampatti, Peraiyur, Surakulam, Chettinad Farm and Amaravathipudur in the District.

Under the Third Five-Year Plan there are several schemes to improve village poultry.

*Cattle Fairs and Shows* :—The following are the places in the Ramanathapuram (West) Agricultural Division, where important livestock fairs (*Shandies*) are held :

| Place of the Fair.                 | Day or Month of Fair.    | Periodicity. | Remarks.                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1)                                | (2)                      | (3)          | (4)                               |
| Sivakasi .. ..                     | Tuesday .. ..            | Weekly       | .. Sheep shandi.                  |
| Rajapalayam .. ..                  | Thursday .. ..           | Do.          | .. Sheep and other cattle shandi. |
| Aruppukottai .. ..                 | Monday .. ..             | Do.          | .. Sheep Shandi.                  |
| Kannioheri (Sattur Taluk).         | Vaigasi (May—June).      | Annual       | .. Cattle Shandi.                 |
| Palayampatti (Aruppukottai Taluk). | Panguni (March—April).   | Do.          | .. Do.                            |
| Vembakkottai (Sattur Taluk).       | Thai (January—February). | Do.          | .. Do.                            |

The following are the places in the Ramanathapuram (East) Agricultural Division where important cattle fairs are held :

| Place of the Fair.   | Day of the Fair.  | Periodicity. | Remarks.                          |
|----------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1)                  | (2)   | (3)          | (4)                               |
| Ramanathapuram .. .. | Wednesday .. ..   | Weekly       | .. Sheep and other Cattle Shandi. |
| Sivaganga .. ..      | Do. .. ..   | Do.          | .. Do.                            |
| Paramagudi .. ..     | Thursday .. ..  | Do.          | .. Do.                            |
| Nayangudi .. ..      | Saturday .. ..  | Do.          | .. Do.                            |
| Kalaiyarkoil .. ..   | Full Moonday in Vaigasi (May—June) and Thai (January—February). | Annual       | .. Cattle Shandi.                 |

The annual cattle *shandies* in the District are generally held over periods of 15 to 20 days each continuously. They are held just like festivities and attract large number of crowds. Persons from all parts of the District congregate at the fairs to purchase or sell cattle.

*Cattle Shows* :—The department also conducts cattle shows to popularise the progressive and scientific practices of animal husbandry in the District. Thus for instance in the year 1962, a large scale District Cattle show was held at Sattur.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN THE DISTRICT UNDER THE PLANS.

During the Second Plan period a special drive was proposed in the matter of live-stock development and increasing the production of milk in the District. The quality of cattle in the rural areas was to be improved by the opening of artificial insemination centres one at Sivaganga to serve the eastern taluks and another at Virudhunagar for the western taluks. Bulls from Government farms were to be distributed in areas not covered by the Key Village Schemes. Side by side with the improvement of cattle wealth, provision has to be made for the opening of veterinary hospitals, first-aid centres touring billets, construction of building for a hospital, staff quarters, etc., besides provision for control of cattle diseases. Poultry development which is an important means of providing subsidiary occupation in rural area also found proper recognition in the scheme. It is also proposed to encourage poultry breeding by private persons by giving them subsidy. To ensure proper feeding of the animals it was proposed to give loans and remission of land revenue for fodder cultivation and hay-making as well as to give subsidies for developing private pasture.

#### ANIMAL DISEASES AND VETERINARY HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT.

Cattle diseases are divided into two categories one called contagious disease and another called as non-contagious disease.

*Non-contagious disease*:—To treat all kinds of animals there are 2 Veterinary Hospitals, 13 Veterinary Dispensaries, 8 Minor Veterinary Dispensaries, 4 First-Aid Centres and 1 Touring Billet in the District.

Under the Third Five-Year Plan each Block Headquarters will have to be provided with one Veterinary Dispensary.

*Contagious disease*:—The common contagious diseases that break out in this district are Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Blackquarter, Surra and Foot and Mouth diseases among cattle and buffaloes, Sheep pox and Anthrax among sheep and goats and Ranikhet disease among the poultry. Prompt and effective steps were continued to be taken with a view to control the spread of contagious diseases among the live-stock in the District. Efficient control of cattle traffic movement and preventive inoculations in and around the affected areas were the important measures adopted by the field staff of the Animal Husbandry Department. Periodical vaccinations were arranged in the endemic areas of the District well in advance of the occurrences of the respective diseases, the forecast of which was made from the endemic charts prepared for the purpose

All Extension Officers for Animal Husbandry working at Blocks and the staff of the Department give preventive inoculation in their jurisdiction to control outbreak of diseases among cattle and poultry. To store preventive vaccines supplied from the Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Ranipet, there are refrigerators at Madurai (District Headquarters), Paramagudi, Sivaganga, Devakottai, Virudhunagar and Srivilliputtur. One Mobile Veterinary Unit is working under the control of the District Veterinary Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai, to conduct mass inoculation, and to control sudden outbreak of cattle disease.

The list of Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the district which allotted to the treatment of diseases among farm animals is given below :—

| <i>Institution.</i>                    | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Places at which situated.</i>  |
|--|----------------|---|
| (1)                                    | (2)            | (3)   |
| 1. Veterinary Hospital.. ..            | 2              | 1. Rajapalayam.<br>2. Sivaganga.  |
| 2. Veterinary Dispensaries .. ..       | 19             | 1. Srivilliputtur.<br>2. Virudhunagar.<br>3. Ramanathapuram.<br>4. Karaikkudi.<br>5. Aruppukkottai.<br>6. Paramagudi.<br>7. Watrap.<br>8. Singampuneri.<br>9. Devakottai.<br>10. Kandanur.<br>11. Vembakkottai.<br>12. Narikkudi.<br>13. Kariapatti.<br>14. Kurichapatti.<br>15. Sivakasi.<br>16. Thiruvegampet.<br>17. R.S. Mangalam.<br>18. Bogalur.<br>19. Kadaladi. |
| 3. Minor Veterinary Dispensaries .. .. | 7              | 1. Sattur.<br>2. Tiruppattur.<br>3. Modukulattur.<br>4. Tiruvadanai.<br>5. Manamadurai.<br>6. Seithur.<br>7. Tiruchuli.   |
| 4. First Aid Centres .. ..             | ..             | ....  |
| 5. Touring Bilets .. ..                | 1              | 1. Malli.   |
| <i>Other institutions.</i>             | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Places at which situated.</i>  |
| (1)                                    | (2)            | (3)   |
| 1. Artificial Insemination Centre ..   | 1              | Sivaganga.  |
| 2. Key Village Extension Centres ..    | 4              | 1. Tiruvadanai.<br>2. Rajasingamangalam.<br>3. Nainarkoil.<br>4. Paramagudi.  |



| <i>Other institutions.</i>         | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Places at which situated</i>   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| (1)                                | (2)            | (3)   |
| 3. Key Village Blocks .. ..        | 2              | 1. Chettinad.<br>2. Tiruppattur.  |
| 4. Poultry Extension Centres .. .. | 6              | 1. Perayur.<br>2. Annuppankulam.<br>3. Ramanathapuram<br>District Livestock Farm,<br>Chettinad.<br>4. Amaravathipudur.<br>5. Palaymapatti.<br>6. Surakulam. |
| 5. District Live-stock Farm .. ..  | 1              | 1. Ramanathapuram<br>District Live-stock Farm,<br>Chettinad.  |

The District Veterinary Officer is in charge of the Animal Husbandry activities in the District. The Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Live-stock Assistants in several institutions are under the control of the District Veterinary Officer. The Department holds Exhibitions and cattle shows during important festivals and fairs at various places in the District. Inspection of animals of milk-supply Co-operatives in health and disease and meat inspection are done by Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Trade in live-stock is carried out in the District through weekly *shandies* and cattle fairs. Since the District is not self-sufficient in draught and milch animals the ryots of the District also purchase the work animals from the cattle fairs of other districts.

During 1960-61, the total number of animals treated at the Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries in the district were 53,933. During the same period, 14,193 castrations were performed.

#### FISHERIES.

While agriculture attempts to increase the harvest of the land, fisheries attempt to reap the harvest of the sea and the inland waters. Fish supplements largely the food requirements of a good number of people and its value lies in its protective supplementation.

Among the coastal districts of the State, this District has the longest coast line with good facilities for the development of fisheries. The coast line of the District extends to nearly 160 miles. On the sea coast in about 50 villages nearly 25,000 fishermen live. Among them about 10,000 persons are actively engaged in the fishing industry. The important fishing centres are Tondi, Pamban, Dhanushkodi, Devipatnam, Rameswaram, Kilakkarai and Alangulam, etc. Generally speaking, the methods adopted by the fishermen of the District as fishermen elsewhere in the State, are old and out-moded. During seasons of large landings, they have no facilities for preserving fish either by freezing or by canning. The only time-honoured method of preservation followed by them is to dry the

fish after treatment with salt. Further owing to want of facilities for transporting the fish from landing centres to inland markets large quantities get decayed and valuable food is lost.

However, after the advent of Independence and with the inauguration of the Five-Year Plans the Government have launched several schemes relating to the development of fisheries in the districts. Generally, the schemes include deep-sea fishing operations, installations of ice plants and cold storages for fish, intensive seed collection and distribution for stocking fish in inland waters, improvement of indigenous crafts and tackles, adoption of improved nylon nets, provision of quick transport facilities and marketing of fish, etc.

Under the Second Five-Year Plan, schemes were proposed for improving facilities for deep-sea fishing in important centres like Pamban, Kilakkarai, etc., of the District. Improved boats at subsidized rates were supplied to fishermen along the sea coast. During the Plan period 5 motor boats were supplied to Fishermen Co-operative Societies and individual group of fishermen. These boats could be owned by the parties by taking them on the *hire-purchase system*. The cost has to be repaid within seven years. With the help of these boats fishermen can go to distant places on the high seas and secure larger catches of fish.

The general type of fishing nets commonly used by fishermen are old fashioned, get worn out soon and do not stand the strain involved in deep-sea fishing. Trials conducted in the State had shown the efficacy of nylon nets in improving the catches. Under the Plan, provision was made for the supply of nylon nets and improved hooks to fishermen at two-thirds cost. The use of the nylon nets have become popular among the fishermen of the District. During the Second Plan period, licences were issued to 13 Fishermen's Co-operative Societies for importing nylon threads to the total value of Rs. 2,60,000. Towards the cost of these threads, the Government contributed 25 per cent as subsidy.

Salt is issued to fishermen in the Government curing yards at subsidised rates. It was also proposed under the Second Plan, to establish Ice plant and Refrigeration Units at Tondi, Kilakkarai, Mantapam and Mo-Farm (மோப்பண்ணை) at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. Fishermen will be benefitted only if the catches are stored against deterioration and sold at favourable prices. Towards the purchase of 3 insulation vans and 40 three-wheeled ice-box cycle-carriers, a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made in the Plan. It was also proposed under the Second Plan to aid the establishment of two Fish Curing Centres at Tondi and Dhanushkodi each, by private entrepreneurs. Towards this the Government proposed to spend Rs. 50,000.

Another important scheme launched for the development of fisheries is the organisation of Co-operative Societies of fishermen and extending to them by way of assistance, improved facilities for fishing, providing quick transport to marketing centres, etc. Upto 1961, there were 28 Marine Fishermen Co-operative Societies, and 7 Inland Fishermen Co-operative Societies. In these societies there were a total membership of 2,963 persons. Their share capital was Rs. 4,754. The Ramanathapuram District Fishermen's Federation aids in the activities of other societies. The societies are granted medium-term and long-term loans to meet the needs of their members. The medium-term loans are repayable in 5 years and the long-term loans in 10 years. To protect the fishermen from the clutches of middle-men and traders, a scheme was undertaken, whereby for the 8 societies in the area extending from Pasi-patnam to Devipatnam, a loan of Rs. 1,67,200 was sanctioned. It was authorised that this amount may be utilised for clearing the old debts of fishermen and also to enable them to purchase fishing tools and implements.

LOANS SANCTIONED TO THE FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVES IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT FROM 1956-57 TO 1965-66.

| Year.   |       | Long<br>Term<br>loan. | Medium<br>Term<br>loan. | Godown<br>loan. | Elimi-<br>nation of<br>Middle-<br>men. | Working<br>Capital<br>loan. |
|---------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|
| (1)     |       | (2)                   | (3)                     | (4)             | (5)                                    | (6)                         |
|         |       | (IN RUPEES).          |                         |                 |  |                             |
| 1956-57 | .. .. | 65,500                | ..                      | ..              | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1957-58 | .. .. | 36,000                | 6,000                   | 2,000           | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1958-59 | .. .. | 59,590                | 2,300                   | 2,000           | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1959-60 | .. .. | 39,350                | 3,600                   | 2,000           | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1960-61 | .. .. | 34,550                | 5,300                   | ..              | 1,71,200                               | ..                          |
| 1961-62 | .. .. | 30,000                | ..                      | 4,000           | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1962-63 | .. .. | 43,750                | 8,800                   | ..              | ..                                     | 50,000                      |
| 1963-64 | .. .. | 50,000                | 8,000                   | ..              | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1964-65 | .. .. | 14,200                | ..                      | ..              | ..                                     | ..                          |
| 1965-66 | .. .. | 35,200                | 9,400                   | ..              | ..                                     | 5,000                       |
|         |       | 4,08,140              | 43,400                  | 10,000          | 1,71,200                               | 55,000                      |

There is also a scheme in operation in the district for the distribution of fingerlings of local varieties obtained from waters of Cauvery, etc., to demonstrate the advantages of pisciculture in increasing fish production. In addition fingerlings are collected from seed collection farms and distributed for pond culture and stocking in inland waters.

The welfare of fishermen has also been not neglected by the Government. Adequate provisions have been made in the Plans for providing fishermen with medical aid, housing and other facilities. Necessary steps have also been taken for giving necessary advice and caution to fishermen regarding changes in weather conditions. With the experience gained in the recent cyclone at Ramanathapuram in 1964 the Government have proposed

to construct 26 community halls out of which 21 are to be constructed in Ramanathapuram District. Alarm Sirens have also been proposed for installation at the Ramanathapuram District in Rameswaram, Pamban, Mantapam, Tondi and Tiruppalaikkudi. It is proposed to supply life buoys and life jackets to the fishermen, so as to enable them to use these in emergency.

Further details on the development of *inland fisheries* and *marine fisheries* in the District are given below.

*Development of Inland Fisheries:*—Under culture fishery, the following are the details of the plan schemes implemented in the District.

#### RURAL FISHERY DEMONSTRATION SCHEME.

There are 11 tanks in the District situated in Virudhunagar, Karaikkudi, Chettinad, Sivaganga and Kalaiyarkoil which were taken up for fish culture under the Scheme during 1959-60 and 1960-61. In the year 1963-64, one more tank at Kalaiyarkoil was taken up under the Scheme. In the above tanks 1,30,988 fingerlings were stocked and 8,257,133 kgs. of fish was caught during the last 5 financial years and sold to the public. The targets fixed for the Scheme and the achievements during the five years 1959-60 to 1963-64 are given below :—

| Year.      | Target fixed. | Fish caught.              | Revenue realised. |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| (1)        | (2)           | (3)                       | (4)               |
|            | LBS.          |                           | RS.               |
| 1959-60 .. | 7,000         | 2,571- $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. | 912.99            |
| 1960-61 .. | 11,300        | 4,908- $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs. | 1,618.76          |
| 1961-62 .. | ..            | 4,050.94 kgs.             | 2,080.01          |
| 1962-63 .. | ..            | 2,205.362 kgs.            | 1,569.00          |
| 1963-64 .. | ..            | 2,601.377 kgs.            | 1,862.91          |
| 1964-65 .. | ..            | 5,819.240 kgs.            | 3,954.83          |

*Intensive Seed Collection And Distribution:*—The object of the Scheme is to collect quick growing varieties of fish from natural resources and to grow them in confined waters. In the District the sea fish commonly called 'Milk Fish' (*Chanos Chanos*) seeds are collected in lakhs and distributed within the District and also throughout the State. Another variety of fish called *Tilapia* has got well established in this District. The seeds of this fish are collected and distributed for culture in departmental waters. They are also distributed to other interested parties. The targets and achievements under this scheme are given below :—

| Year.           | Target fixed. | Collection. |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| (1)             | (2)           | (3)         |
|                 | RS.           | RS.         |
| 1959-60 .. .. . | 10,00,000     | 4,75,107    |
| 1960-61 .. .. . | 10,00,000     | 3,24,962    |
| 1961-62 .. .. . | 10,00,000     | 1,29,506    |
| 1962-63 .. .. . | 10,00,000     | 1,50,683    |
| 1963-64 .. .. . | 10,00,000     | 1,55,443    |
| 1964-65 .. .. . | ..            | 4,20,770    |

**Shark Liver Oil Extraction:**—Shark Liver Oil is a good source of Vitamins A and D. Consequent on the restriction of imports of Cod Liver Oil an impetus was given for the production of more quantity of Shark Liver Oil. During the years 1959–60 to 1964–65 the following quantity of unrefined Shark Liver Oil was produced and sent to Calicut Oil Factory for purification :—

| Year.   |     |    |    | Quantity of<br>liver. | Extracted oil. |
|---------|-----|----|----|-----------------------|----------------|
|         | (1) |    |    | (2)                   | (3)            |
|         |     |    |    | KGS.                  | KGS.           |
| 1959–60 | ..  | .. | .. | 4,832                 | 2,678          |
| 1960–61 | ..  | .. | .. | 11,973                | 7,142          |
| 1961–62 | ..  | .. | .. | 10,384                | 5,644          |
| 1962–63 | ..  | .. | .. | 4,712                 | 2,856          |
| 1963–64 | ..  | .. | .. | 3,499                 | 2,083          |
| 1964–65 | ..  | .. | .. | 2,959                 | 1,749          |

**Improvement Of Fish Markets:**—Under this Scheme to improve sanitation and better way of marketing the fish, the Fisheries Department gives 50 per cent subsidy to the improvement of fish markets to interested local bodies. In 1959–60, the Sivaganga Panchayat availed of the concession.

**Community Development:**—During the years 1959–60 to 1964–65 fish seeds were supplied to interested pisciculturists through Block Development Officers as detailed below :

| Year.   | Fish seeds supplied. |        | Blocks.   | Value.    |
|---------|----------------------|--------|---|-----------|
| (1)     | (2)                  |        | (3)   | (4)       |
| 1959–60 | ..                   | ..     | Tiruvadanai, Mandapam, Kadaladi, Srivilliputtur, Rajapalayam.   | Rs.<br>.. |
| 1960–61 | ..                   | 71,196 | Mudukulattur, Tiruvadanai, Kadaladi, Kamudi, Devakottai, Pudukkottai, Kalaiyarkoil, Manamadurai, Srivilliputtur, Kariapatti, Rajapalayam. | 1,322·87  |
| 1961–62 | ..                   | 14,639 | ....  | 187·50    |
| 1962–63 | ..                   | 67,116 | Tiruvadanai, Kamankudi, Chekkadi, Kallal.   | 1,064·27  |
| 1963–64 | ..                   | 27,150 | ....  | 204·84    |
| 1964–65 | ..                   | 19,000 | Aruppukkottai, Chettikuruchi, Malipatti.  | 355·42    |

**Fish Curing Yards:**—To improve the quality of preservation of fish the Department maintains two fish curing yards at Athankarai and Mukkaiyur, where good quality of salt is issued to bonafide fish curers at subsidised cost.

*Ice Plant And Cold Storage Facilities:*—During the year 1961–62, the installation of one Ice Plant-cum-Cold Storage at Kilakkarai, was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 70,000. The construction work has since been started by the Public Works Department and the work is in progress.

*Relief Measures And Ex-gratia Grants:*—The Government also help the fishermen with suitable relief measures and the payment of ex-gratia grants, wherever and whenever necessary. The following are some of the details of such assistance rendered to fishermen in recent years in the District.

During the year, 1959–60 a sum of Rs. 545 as subsidy and a sum of Rs. 350 as loan were given to fishermen who were affected by the fire accident in Tangachchimattam village. Further a grant of Rs. 900 as loan and Rs. 270 as subsidy were made to the fishermen of Valinokkam who were affected by fire. In addition to these for construction of two houses under Fishermen Housing Scheme a sum of Rs. 600 was paid to two fishermen on loan.

During the year 1960–61, a sum of Rs. 125 was given as free grant to the school children of Kankollanpattinam village. A sum of Rs. 150 as loan repayable in three years and a subsidy of Rs. 100 were paid to a fisherman of Devipattam who had lost his son in a boat accident on the sea.

In 1961–62, a sum of Rs. 94 was granted to the St. Mary's Basic School, Olaikuda for the purchase and free supply of books, slates, etc., for 36 poor children of fishermen studying in the school.

In the year, 1962–63, a free grant of Rs. 600 was given to the Mullaimunhi Fishermen Co-operative Society for removal of trees from the sea for enabling the fishermen to operate *Karavalai* fishing.

Four fishermen from Tiruppalaikkudi who went out for fishing lost their lives by cyclonic havoc during the first week of December, 1963. An ex-gratia grant of Rs. 50 was distributed to the members of each of the family concerned.

*Cyclone Relief 1964–65:*—The heavy tides of cyclone and storm hit Dhanushkodi in the Ramanathapuram District during December 1964 and the whole of Dhanushkodi was completely washed away. The worst affected during this disaster was the fishermen community. The Department immediately took up remedial measures after survey of the area by the Director of Fisheries personally. A special unit staff of one Assistant Director of Fisheries assisted by three Inspectors of Fisheries and six Sub-Inspectors of Fisheries was stationed at Mandapam Camp to look after the distribution of cyclone relief to the fishermen. Strenuous efforts were taken by the Department in arranging for the distribution of relief to fishermen by way of cash grants and loans, and subsidy in respect of loans of boats, repairs to boats, repairs to nets, loss of

coir ropes, etc. The staff was disbanded on 11th July 1965 and the balance of left over items of work are now being carried on by the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Sivaganga and Thanjavur.

Details of relief given to the affected fishermen during 1964 and 1965 are given below :

|  |    |    |    |    |    | Rs.         |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| <b>I. Supply and Repairs to Boats.—</b>                                    |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen benefited   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,028       |
| 2. Subsidy paid  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,32,500    |
| 3. Loan disbursed  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 90,045      |
| 4. Total amount spent  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,22,545    |
| <b>II. Completely damaged boats.—</b>                                      |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen benefited   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 363         |
| 2. Subsidy paid  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,71,450    |
| 3. Loan disbursed  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,88,850    |
| 4. Total amount spent  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,60,400    |
| <b>III. Supply of nets and repairs to nets.—</b>                           |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| (Both nylon and cotton yarn).  |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen benefited   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,080       |
| 2. Subsidy paid  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,57,489.25 |
| 3. Loan disbursed  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,67,072.35 |
| 4. Total amount spent  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,24,561.60 |
| <b>IV. Ad hoc cash grant paid.—</b>  |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,582       |
| 2. Amount paid at Rs. 50 each  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,79,100    |
| <b>V. Assistance to Karavalai (Shore seine nets).—</b>                     |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen benefited   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 185         |
| 2. Subsidy paid  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 71,200      |
| 3. Loan disbursed  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,89,540.46 |
| 4. Total amount spent  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,60,560.46 |
| <b>VI. Free supply of nylon twine and floats gifted by the Red Cross.—</b> |    |    |    |    |    |             |
| 1. Number of fishermen benefited   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,507       |
| 2. Quantity of nylon distributed   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | kgs. 5,802  |
| 3. Number of floats distributed  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | kgs. 4,009  |

**Publicity On The Development Of Fisheries:—**During the year, 1960-61, the Fisheries Department participated in two important exhibitions one held at Devakottai and the other at Virudhunagar. Fish specimen and preserved fish and pamphlets were distributed for giving wide publicity about the value of fisheries and its development.

During the year 1961-62, the Department also participated in the exhibition at K. V. Sabia, Virudhunagar.

**Development Of Marine Fisheries In The District:—**The use of conventional methods of primitive gear made out of cotton and the sailing canoes (using wind power) result in the production, on the average only half to one ton of fish per man per year. The production of fish can be substantially stepped up from the marine

resources. The following main technological revolutions have brought forth a substantial increase in the landings of the Ramanathapuram District Coast.

As already seen the Ramanathapuram District coast covers nearly 169 miles extending over both the Gulf of Mannar on the southern side and the Palk Bay on the northern side. The Rameswaram Island plays a dominant part in the marine fishery activities of the District owing to its proximity to the fishing grounds in the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar and the shelter it affords to the fishing boats during both the monsoons—(North-East and South-West).

The first technological revolution, mechanisation of the fishing crafts was introduced by the State Fisheries Department during the course of the last decade (1950–60). Travel fishing operations could be done only from mechanised boats and the commercial potentialities of this type of gear were practically demonstrated to the local fishermen by the Food and Agricultural Organisation Expert (who worked at Pamban during 1956–59) and were continued by the Inshore Fishing Survey Station, Rameswaram. As a result, to-day, the fleet of more than 60 fishing boats moving out from Rameswaram to the sea on return, land on an average two metric tons of fish per day per mechanised boat. The operation of travel nets in the Rameswaram area has brought forth prosperity to the fishermen as well as more fish to the consuming public. Mechanised fishing boat owners hailing from Madras, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, Colachel and also some from the Kerala State move their boats, annually to Rameswaram for conducting fishing operations. Large quantities of dried fish are exported to the West Coast area (Malabar areas) also during the South-West monsoon period.

The second revolution in the development of marine fisheries in this area is the advent of synthetic fibres. The introduction of nylon and other synthetic twines for the fabrication of gill nets in this area has improved the landings, and almost all the canoe fishermen of this area who were using only cotton nets a few years ago, are only using the synthetic twine now. One attractive feature of the gill net made out of synthetic twine is that it can be used even from primitive unpowered craft with great advantage and this fact can be clearly seen every day when the non-mechanised canoes of Rameswaram Island sail every day to the fishing ground with a load of gill net made out of synthetic twine and land about 50 to 100 kilograms of good variety of fish per day per boat.

*Socio-Economic Works:*—One of the aims of the development of Marine Fisheries is the socio-economic uplift of those who are engaged in fishing. In this District, Fishermen Co-operative Societies were organised and loans were given for the improvement of

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crafts and gear. Boats were issued to the members of the Fishermen Co-operative Societies on subsidy and loan basis. Out of the total cost of hull, 25 per cent was given as subsidy and 75 per cent was treated as loan. The engine fitted in the hull was given at 50 per cent subsidy. The loan is repayable in 60 instalments spread over to 7 years. Synthetic yarn was issued at 2/3rd of its cost and 1/3rd of the cost was treated as subsidy. Cotton yarn was also issued to fishermen at 25 per cent subsidised cost.

There is also a bright scope for the further improvement in the mechanisation of the fishing industry along this coast through the implementation of the various schemes under the *Indo-Norwegian Fishing Project* established at Mantapam.

*The Project*:—In 1961, the Government of India entered into an agreement with the U.N.O. and the Government of Norway for extending the activities of Indo-Norwegian Project at Quilon to Madras and Mysore States. The Madras Government, in June 1963 sanctioned the establishment of an Indo-Norwegian Project unit at Mandapam in the District. The Assistant Director of Fisheries has been put in charge of the Project has his headquarters at Mantapam.

The following works have been taken up under the project and the progress upto August 1956 is detailed below :

| <i>Serial number and name of work.</i>  | <i>Present stage.</i>  |
|---|--|
| (1)   | (2)  |
| 1. Formation of approach road connecting Black topping work is completed, the project site at Mandapam. |  |
| 2. Construction of Ice plant-cum-Cold storage.  | Insulation works are completed.  |
| 3. Electrical installation for building ..  | Electrification work is in progress.   |
| 4. Extension of Boat Building Yard ..   | Erection of Bandsaw to be taken up pending supply of rails.                                    |
| 5. Providing and supplying Pillamamdu and Karimaradu to the RCC Jetty at Mandapam.                      | Fendering arrangements have been completed for the length of 300' Further work is in progress. |
| 6. Construction of Fish Reception Hall.   | Erection of trusses and filling in basement have been completed. Flooring work is in progress. |
| 7. Providing of guide lights .. ..  | Estimates Received. Tenders are being settled. Work will be started soon.                      |
| 8. Providing Foundation for Bandsaw machine in the Boat Building Yard.                                  | Foundation is being cast.  |
| 9. Erection of Furnaces in Boat Building Yard.  | Furnace is being transported.  |
| 10. Purchase of New Willy's Jeep for Indo-Norwegian Project at Mantapam.                                | Orders placed with transport Commissioner for the purchase of Jeep with Tractor.               |

1. *Boat Building Yard*:—Construction of eleven 32 feet boats is nearing completion. Erection of crane for launching the boats is in progress. Additional shed for log cutting bandsaw section has been completed. Hardware materials and the timber are being received regularly. Estimates for the provision of additional sheds for Rs. 12,200 have been sent to Government for sanction. Eleven keels have been laid.

2. *Provision Of Fishermen Colony*:—Necessary provisions have been made by allotting poramboke lands, as well as by acquiring private lands for the purpose of house building for the fishermen of this area.

3. *Exploratory Survey*:—Indo-Norwegian Project M1 and M3 are doing exploratory survey. They are doing trawling and purse servicing. In addition to this two 32 feet boats and one 25 feet boat of Inshore Fishing Station, Rameswaram are also doing exploratory fishing in the Palk Bay side.

4. *Guide Lights*:—The Automobile Engineer, Indo-Norwegian Project, Mantapam and the Executive Engineer (Marine Works Division) Cuddalore have been requested to take up the erection of guide lights and they have informed that the work will be taken up soon.

5. *Ice Plant-cum-Cold Storage*:—Construction of buildings for erection of machineries and the insulation work have been completed. The Automobile Engineer, Indo-Norwegian Project, Mantapam Camp and the Executive Engineer, (Marine Works Division), Cuddalore have been requested to do certain improvements as requested by the Automobile Engineer Indo-Norwegian Project, Ernakulam. The erectors are expected and almost all the machineries for the plant have been received, the works will be started soon.

6. *Construction Of Fish Reception Hall*:—The work is in progress.

7. *Fish Meal Plant*.—The land required for the Fish Meal Plant has been taken over for construction of building. The machineries intended for Fish Meal Plant are awaited. The estimate for the building is under scrutiny by the Superintending Engineer (Marine Works Circle) for technical approval.

8. *Construction Of Jetty*:—The boarings are being conducted by the Norwegian Foundation and the corals are being removed.

9. *Fisheries Training Centres*:—Third batch of sixty trainees are now undergoing training. Regular seatrips training are given to them. A quantity of 10,485·500 kgs. of fish were landed by the Fisheries Training Centre boats and a sum of Rs. 841·50 was realised.

**DETAILS OF THE VARIETIES OF FISHES AVAILABLE AND THE SEASONS IN WHICH THEY ARE GENERALLY CAUGHT.**

| <i>Month.</i>   | <i>Area of fishing.</i> |    | <i>Chief Fisheries.</i>   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----|---|
| (1)             | (2)                     |    | (3)   |
| January .. ..   | Gulf of Manar ..        | .. | Sardines, Sharks and Rays, Seer fish, Perches and Sabro fish.                       |
| February .. ..  | Do. ..                  | .. | Sharks, Sardines, Perches, and sabro fish.  |
| March .. ..     | Do. ..                  | .. | Sardines, Sharks, perches, Skats and Rays and Seer Fish.                            |
| April .. ..     | Palk Bay ..             | .. | Sharks, Skates, Rays, Sardines, Seer fish and Sabro fish, Katta, Silver bellies.    |
| May .. ..       | Do. ..                  | .. | Sharks, Skates, and Rays, Sabro fish and Seer fish, Silver bellies, Katta.          |
| June .. ..      | Do. ..                  | .. | Sharks, Seer fish, Sabro fish, Skates and Rays, Silver bellies, Katta.              |
| July .. ..      | Do. ..                  | .. | Sardines, Cat fish, Sharks, Skates and Rays, Seer fish, Sabro fish, Silver bellies. |
| August .. ..    | Do. ..                  | .. | Sardines, Sharks, Seer fish and Sabro fish, Silver bellies.                         |
| September .. .. | Do. ..                  | .. | Sardines, Seer fish, Skates and Rays.   |
| October .. ..   | Do. ..                  | .. | Sharks, Sardines, Skates and Rays, Seer fish and Sabro fish.                        |
| November .. ..  | Gulf of Manar ..        | .. | Sharks, Sardines, Skates and Rays, Seer fish and Sabro fish.                        |
| December .. ..  | Do. ..                  | .. | Sharks, Sardines, Sabro fish and Seer fish.   |

*Quantity and value of fish caught in Ramanathapuram District during 1956-57.*

| <i>Marine.</i>           |                     | <i>Inland.</i>           |                     | <i>Total.</i>            |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Quantity in Tons.</i> | <i>Value in Rs.</i> | <i>Quantity in Tons.</i> | <i>Value in Rs.</i> | <i>Quantity in Tons.</i> | <i>Value in Rs.</i> |
| (1)                      | (2)                 | (3)                      | (4)                 | (5)                      | (6)                 |
| 11,310                   | 95,79,748           | 1,931                    | 11,55,463           | 13,241                   | 1,07,35,21          |

**FORESTS<sup>1</sup>.**

*The Importance Of Forestry In The Economy Of The District And The Forest Produce:*—An area of 62,743 acres or 25,391 hectares in the District is covered with forests. The forests of the District form 2·0 per cent of the total area of the District.

The chief forest requirements of the people of the District are small timber for building and agricultural implements, fuel for domestic consumption and for cottage industries such as jaggery making, lime and brick-kilns, pottery, etc., pasture for

1. For a detailed description of the forests of the District, see also the section on *Flora* in Chapter I—General.

cattle, thatch-grass and to a decreasing extent leaf manure for wet cultivated fields. The fishermen on the sea coast require timber for *catamarans*, and country crafts.

The following are among the important forest produce of the District :—

*Small Timber*:—The species generally in demand for agricultural implements and for building material are, *Choloroxylon Swietenia*, *Acacia arebica*, *Mesua furea*, *Acacia sundra*, *Crewia tiliacifolia*, Teak, *Albizzia labbek*, and *Ptreocarpus marsupium* (for agricultural implements) and teak, vengai, mango and (Palmyra for building material.)

*Fuel*:—The village and rural demands for fuel is comparatively insignificant as the ryots use mainly palmyrah, maize, cotton and castor stalks, palmyra leaves, cowdung cakes and such brush wood fuel as is obtainable. Along the coast and in the Rameswaram Island where the soil is too poor to yield other agricultural crops, the ryots raise small groves of *Acacia planifrons*, on their patta lands, for purposes of fuel. Again, there are a number of areas scattered over the plains chiefly tank-beds with black cotton soil. These areas are unreserved lands. The chief growth on this consists of *Acacia Arabica*, the wood of which is in great demand for fuels. This is the other important fuel resource in the plains.

The number of fuel series in the District are few and far between and are confined to the Srivilliputtur Forest Range only. It is only from the villages situated near the hills that women and less often men, go and spend their time in the fuel coupes collecting fuel on payment to the contractor a serigniorage of 12 paise per head load.

*Sandalwood*:—Sandalwood is also an important forest produce of the District. All the sandal extracted in the District, is fuel cleaned and sent to the Tirupattur sale Depot in the North Arcot District, where it is auctioned along with the sandalwood extracted from the forests of the Salem circle.

*Bamboos*:—Only a very small quantity of bamboo is available in the District.

*Manure leaves*:—Species available like *Tenhcosia, son.*, *Mundulea Suberosa*, *Paretha indica*, etc., are utilised.

#### *Measures for the Scientific Exploitation and Development of the Forests in the District.*

The main aspects of management of the forests in the District are as follows :—

(1) Protection and conservation of forests ; (2) securing the maximum sustained annual yield of timber and fuel ; (3) rapid improvement of growing stock by undertaking artificial regeneration

of valuable timber such as Teak and match wood species wherever this can be successfully and economically accomplished ; (4) to grow cashew on large scale in scrub type of forests not only to improve the soil cover but also to augment the revenue by the sale of its fruits ; (5) rehabilitation of ex-Panchayat Reserves and ex-Zamin forests with fuel species ; (6) planting casuarina in the sea-shore areas to arrest the spread of sand dunes ; (7) disposal of all minor produce in the most profitable manner ; (8) provision of cheap and adequate grazing for local and village cattle and improvement of pasture ; (9) maintenance of the forest in a state of increasing productivity ; (10) the preservation of the wild life of the District and (11) the cultivation of lac on *Moghania Macrandrilla trees*.

In addition to the normal maintenance and annual plantations raised in the usual course, the following extensive plantations were raised in the District under the Five-Year Plans :—

|                             |    |    |    |    |    | Under the Second<br>Five Year<br>Plan. | Under the Third<br>Five Year<br>Plan upto<br>1963-64. |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|---|
|                             |    |    |    |    |    | ACRES.                                 | ACRES.  |
| <i>Cashew—</i>              |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Karaikkudi range            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,338                                  | 2,161   |
| Tiruppattur range           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 338                                    | 227   |
| Sivaganga range             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,575                                  | 1,110   |
| Ramanathapuram range        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 149                                    | 100   |
| Srivilliputtur range        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 125                                    | ..  |
| <i>Teak wood—</i>           |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Srivilliputtur range        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 556                                    | ..  |
| <i>Soft wood—</i>           |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Srivilliputtur range        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 200                                    | 236   |
| <i>Rehabilitation plot—</i> |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Karaikkudi range            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 58                                     | 100   |
| Sivaganga range             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50                                     | 136   |
| <i>Casuarina—</i>           |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Rameswaram range            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 606                                    | 200   |
| <i>Tamarind—</i>            |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |
| Sivaganga range             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20                                     | 20  |
| Srivilliputtur range        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10                                     | 25  |

*State Assistance to Agriculture:—*The various ways in which the State strives to develop agriculture in the District has been already described. The Department of Agriculture is striving ceaselessly to provide improved seeds, manures, tractors, and other implements besides plant protection aids like pesticides. In the Agricultural Research Stations, among other work, continuous research is being carried on to evolve better and more suitable strains of various crops for the various localities. The results of the research are disseminated to the ryots who benefit from increased yields of crops by the adoption of the better farming practices recommended and

the use of improved strains of crops, etc. The Community Development and National Extension Service Programme have also variously contributed for the development of agriculture and ultimately to increase agricultural production. Facilities of irrigation have also been adequately developed by the State. By these and other measures, the State has tried to place the progress of scientific agriculture on a firm footing in the district.

But above all these, the most important assistance which the State can give to the development of agriculture is the provision of adequate finance. Being a seasonal industry in which there is an inevitable time lag between the investment and the outturn, credit is very essential for successful agriculture. The amount of credit which ryots required for crop production generally depends on several factors which vary with the nature of the crop, the locality, the holding and size of the family. A ryot requires credit firstly, for cultivation expenses, secondly, to meet expenses connected with the maintenance of his family and thirdly, if he is indebted, to meet the interest charges on his debts.

The position of the State as a direct supplier of credit has always been not significant. The amounts loaned are very small compared with the total requirements of the agriculturists. State credit has been mostly advanced to enable the ryot to tide over emergencies and are not intended generally to supply his normal finance. The State provides credit to the agriculturists both indirectly and directly—indirectly through the co-operative organisation and directly through the *Takkavi* and other loans.

The following table shows the extent of co-operative credit made available to the agriculturists in the State as a whole and in the Ramanathapuram District, during the last ten years :—

| Year.              | Co-operative Credit made<br>available to agriculturists. |                     |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|
|                    | In the whole<br>State.                                   | In the<br>District. |
| (1)                | (2)  | (3)                 |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS.) |  |                     |
| 1953-54 .. .. .    | 359  | 17.48               |
| 1954-55 .. .. .    | 415  | 26.25               |
| 1955-56 .. .. .    | 521  | 23.98               |
| 1956-57 .. .. .    | 787  | 30.86               |
| 1957-58 .. .. .    | 984  | 48.28               |
| 1958-59 .. .. .    | 1,389  | 68.87               |
| 1959-60 .. .. .    | 1,831  | 81.59               |
| 1960-61 .. .. .    | 2,641  | 131.50              |
| 1961-62 .. .. .    | 3,050.60   | 155.29              |
| 1962-63 .. .. .    | 3,491.79   | 186.01              |

From early times, the Government have helped agriculturists by the grant of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 and the Agriculturists' Loans (Amendment) Act of 1883 and the Agriculturists Loans Act of 1884. Under the Land Improvements Loans Act, loans may be granted to landholders and cultivators for making improvements on land thereby adding to its letting values viz. the constructions of wells, tanks and other works, the preparation of land for irrigation, drainage and protection of land for irrigation, drainage and protection from floods and erosion, and the permanent improvement of land or such other item of work which may be declared as improvements to land from time to time. The loans are granted by the Revenue Department after local enquiry and are repayable by equal annual instalments discharging both principal and interest. The period by which a loan can be repaid is fixed according to the principal of the loan, but generally the maximum period does not exceed 20 years, in some exceptional cases, the period may extend to 30 years. In 1964-65, the rate of interest charged on advances to cultivators is 5 per cent per annum. The rate of penal interest is also the same.

Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, short-term and medium-term loans are granted to owners and occupiers of arable land for current agricultural purposes, such as the purchase of seeds, grain, manure and cattle and the rebuilding of houses destroyed by fire or floods. Loans are also granted for other agricultural purposes like purchase of fodder, purchase and erection of agricultural machinery and equipment like pump-sets. For relief of distress among cultivators in famine tracts, loans may also be granted under this Act to cultivators up to a maximum amount of Rs.200 until the ripening of the next harvest.

The one outstanding feature of the *Takkavi* loans is the low rate of interest. It is much lower than that charged by ordinary money-lenders.

Under the community Development and National Extension Service Programme also loans are granted for agricultural purposes. Besides, these loans are also granted for relief during cyclones and under other schemes like the New Well Subsidy Scheme.

The following table shows the amount of loans granted to the agriculturists in the District:

TABLE SHOWING THE AMOUNT PAID AS LOANS TO AGRICULTURISTS UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES FROM 1953-54 TO 1961-62.

| Type of loan.   | (1)      | (2)      | (3)       | (4)       | (5)      | (6)      | (7)      | (8)       | (9)       | (10) |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Land Improvement Loans Act And Agriculturists Loans Act.      | RS.      | RS.      | RS.       | RS.       | RS.      | RS.      | RS.      | RS.       | RS.       | RS.  |
| Pumping installation .. .. .                                  | 2,38,570 | 2,77,519 | 1,40,120  | 2,64,770  | 2,34,340 | 4,04,340 | 6,00,360 | 6,63,070  | 10,92,000 |      |
| Agricultural implements .. .. .                               | 760      | 370      | ..        | ..        | 850      | 6,595    | 2,760    | 5,240     | 2,000     |      |
| Agriculturists Loans (Amendment) Act ..                       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| New Well Subsidy Scheme (Five-Year Plan).                     | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..       | 1,05,880 | 2,08,088 | 2,10,750  | 1,61,750  |      |
| Chemical Fertilisers Intensive Manuring Scheme.               | 51,100   | 27,880   | 30,860    | 67,030    | 35,050   | 56,380   | 1,97,310 | 49,175    | 1,99,885  |      |
| Community Development Programme Minor Irrigation Scheme.      | ..       | ..       | 3,57,000  | 83,200    | 1,82,700 | 1,70,500 | 7,18,750 | 11,91,050 | 7,82,008  |      |
| Community Development Programme short-term credit facilities. | ..       | ..       | 1,07,080  | 1,38,560  | 1,68,464 | 1,22,080 | 9,36,820 | 7,54,670  | ..        | ..   |
| National Extension Service Minor Irrigation Schemes.          | ..       | 75,800   | 45,000    | 45,524    | 3,27,840 | 4,81,315 | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| National Extension Service Short-term credit facilities.      | 1,700    | 2,80,010 | 1,25,580  | 2,94,260  | 5,67,960 | 9,68,665 | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Chemical Fertilisers—Other loans ..                           | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| New Well subsidy Scheme—Other loans ..                        | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans—Subsistence .. .. .                             | ..       | ..       | 4,83,929  | 23,55,571 | 5,856    | 3,525    | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans (Land) .. .. .                                  | ..       | ..       | 8,33,935  | 38,05,024 | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans (Bulls) .. .. .                                 | ..       | ..       | 1,94,560  | 30,87,644 | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans (House) .. .. .                                 | ..       | ..       | 11,99,845 | 87,25,410 | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans (Seed and Manure) .. ..                         | ..       | ..       | ..        | 550       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |
| Cyclone Loans( Other Loans) .. .. .                           | ..       | ..       | 2,700     | 77,300    | 1,55,070 | 440      | ..       | ..        | ..        | ..   |



*Floods, Famines and Draughts:*—The District benefits largely from the North-East Monsoon received from October-December. The monsoon is, however, not absolutely reliable. Strangely enough, the failure of the monsoon in one season, as already observed earlier, is usually followed by excessive rains, and consequent extensive and destructive floods, as owing to the flatness of the country nearly upto the foot of the ghats, the rivers and streams all flow in wide shallow valleys. The floods cause enormous damage to irrigation works, roads, electric and telephone communications and sometimes whole villages and a large number of livestock are destroyed.

A number of floods have occurred in the District in the past. The following table shows the important occurrences of floods and other devastations by water in the District taluk-wise, with the date of occurrences:

| <i>Taluk.</i>     | <i>Date of occurrence.</i> | <i>Nature of occurrence.</i>  |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sattur .. ..      | 1933                       | Sattur Floods.  |
| Ramanathapuram    | 1920                       | Heavy floods in Vaigai.   |
|                   | 1922                       | Breaches in the Ramanathapuram Big Tank.  |
|                   | 1932                       | Terrible tempest. Sea water got into Dhanushkodi and Mantapam overthrowing bridges and causing breaches in roads. |
| Paramagudi .. ..  | 1920                       | Heavy floods in Vaigai.   |
| Sivaganga .. ..   | 1925                       | Heavy floods in Vaigai.   |
|                   | 1930                       | Heavy floods in Manimuttar.   |
| Tiruppattur .. .. | 1922                       | Great floods in Manimuttar River.   |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. | 1920-21                    | Heavy floods in the Taluk.  |

Though a number of floods have occurred in the District in the past, the one in 1955 is perhaps the most serious in recent years when practically the whole of Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur and Paramagudi taluks were under water for nearly two months.

A severe cyclone passed through the District during 1955, lasting for about 6 to 8 hours followed by gale and heavy rains. 7 out of the 9 taluks involving a population of about 15 lakhs were affected. The disastrous results inevitably followed were : tanks burst ; roads breached ; rails got submerged and washed away ; bridges and culverts gave way ; trees fell, houses collapsed ; cattle died in large numbers, and a few human lives were also lost.

Several relief measures were undertaken. Immediate action was taken to save people from starvation where necessary. Gruel centres were opened in about 300 centres and rice was made available through fair price shops at prices that prevail prior to the cyclone. The work of helping the affected people to repair or reconstruct their damaged and lost houses was taken up almost immediately after the cyclone. Cash relief was given. Apart from the cash grant, 2 palmyrah trees were also granted from Government lands for the restoration of damaged or destroyed houses to pre-cyclone condition. Both road and rail communications were restored with commendable promptness, as also the irrigation tanks. Various other measures were also undertaken and remission of land revenue was ordered in all deserving cases in the affected areas.

On the night of 22nd December, 1964 Cyclonic storm and tidal waves from the northern shores of Rameswaram Island lashed the Island and the mainland adjoining the Rameswaram Island in all their fury and they lasted from about 2 a.m. on 23rd December 1964 till a little after daybreak. The eastern part of the Rameswaram Island between the Rameswaram road and Dhanushkodi which is a long narrow strip of land nearly 10 miles long and width varying between one furlong and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, was swept over by the tidal waves of the northern sea which mingled with the waters of the southern sea in a number of places. The village of Dhanushkodi was almost lost to the waters of the sea. An inflated train proceeding from the Rameswaram road to Dhanushkodi, just a little distance before it was to steam into the railway station was smashed to pieces and the entire train with its passengers was lost. A number of foreshore villages where the fishermen had constructed their houses on the coastal belt were wiped out. The railway line between the Rameswaram road and Dhanushkodi was twisted out of shape and the Railway Bridge between Pamban and Mantapam with its 145 spans was washed away and only the masonry piers and the steel structure lift bridge that allows the ships to pass underneath remained. Apart from the heavy damages caused to Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram, the coastal villages in Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai, Mudukulattur, Sivaganga, Paramagudi, and in the sub-taluk of Kamudi, Tiruchuli, Devakottai, Elayangudi and Manamadurai were also affected.

Prompt rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures were taken. The entire population of Dhanushkodi was evacuated to Mantapam soon after the cyclone through ships and launches and air dropping of food packets was continued till they were all evacuated. Ferry service with six boats between Thonithurai Jetty and Pamban Jetty was commissioned into operation for the convenience of people travelling from the mainland to the Island. The rail communication between Rameswaram and the mainland was restored from 1st March 1965 and the ferry service was discontinued. A number of gruel centres were opened in the coastal and other interior villages

in the Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi taluks. In Mandapam camp, a feeding centre was run. The havoc had caused extensive damages to power and telephone communications and they were restored quickly. A large number of public buildings, schools and hospitals were also badly affected and suffered serious damages. A number of irrigation tanks were breached and many others were affected by scour. Necessary repairs were undertaken. A special Food Production Division was also formed. Prompt medical aid was given in the cyclone affected areas and preventive measures were taken to arrest the spread of epidemics. A number of other relief and rehabilitation measures like the grant of cash relief and clothing allowance and the grant of cyclone loans for repair and re-building of houses were also promptly undertaken in the cyclone affected areas.

Famines seemed to have prevailed from the earliest of times, but as the early history of the District prior to June 1910, is merged with the history of the Madurai and Tirunelveli districts no separate figures are available as to the number of people relieved in the district etc., during famines in the early periods like the great famine of 1876-78, in the nineteenth century.

After the formation of the district in 1910, the following famines have occurred owing to failure of rains :—

1918 : a local famine in the Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai taluks.

1936 : a local famine in the *zamin* Ilayangudi Taluk.

During famines the procedure in the *Famine Code* is followed. Annually a list of Famine Relief Works is prepared in advance taluk-wise and kept ready for putting them into execution in case famine breaks out in any part of the district. The Collector deals with the earlier stages of distress either through the expansion of ordinary works or test works and the grant of *Takkavi* loans. Non-official relief agencies and organised private charities also help. As on test works the task is higher than on relief works and there is no rest day or allowances for dependents, the object being to test whether the labouring classes are in such a state of distress that relief works must be opened to save them from starvation, in no case the test period exceeds 4 weeks. The persons eligible for official gratuitous relief are the destitutes who are incapable of work and who are in danger of starvation and who are not dependents of workers. Relief works are started to save labouring classes from starvation. This is different from test works which as already explained are started to test whether the labouring classes are on the verge of starvation. Wages are paid according to the provisions of the *Famine Code*.

# AGRICULTURAL LIVELYHOOD CLASSES AND THE GENERAL CONDITION OF AGRICULTURISTS IN THE DISTRICT.

According to the Census of 1951, the total population of the District was 2,080,519 persons. Of this, 1,324,555 persons or about 63·7 per cent belonged to the agricultural classes. The following table shows the internal structure of the agricultural groups :—

| Class.  | Numbers.  |         |          |
|---|-----------|---------|----------|
|   | Total.    | Males.  | Females. |
| 1. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants.                 | 939,519   | 452,257 | 487,262  |
| 2. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants.               | 115,438   | 55,019  | 60,419   |
| 3. Cultivating labourers and their dependants.                                      | 244,599   | 112,545 | 132,054  |
| 4. Non cultivating owners of land agricultural rent receivers and their dependants. | 24,999    | 10,538  | 14,461   |
| Total   | 1,324,555 | 630,359 | 694,196  |

The class—'Owner cultivators' is the numerically largest among the four agricultural classes in the District. It supports nearly 45·1 per cent of the total district population. The class—'non-cultivating owners of land and agricultural renters' is the numerically smallest. It accounts for only 1·2 per cent of the total population of the District.

It is also significant to note that in all the classes, the number of female workers are in excess of the male workers.

The Census of 1961 records that out of the total workers of 1,161,370 persons in the District, 615,781 persons are cultivators and 167,686 persons are agricultural labourers. The following table shows the distribution of the agricultural workers among males and females:—

| Class.                            | Numbers.  |         |          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|
|                                   | Total.    | Males.  | Females. |
| Total workers (all classes) .. .. | 1,161,370 | 684,881 | 476,489  |
| Cultivators .. .. .               | 615,781   | 353,357 | 262,424  |
| Agricultural labourers .. ..      | 167,686   | 74,002  | 93,684   |
| Total .. ..                       | 783,467   | 427,359 | 356,108  |

It is seen that the total agricultural workers of the District (cultivators and agricultural labourers) form nearly 67·4 per cent (53·01 per cent plus 14·4 percent) of the total workers in the District in all the livelihood classes. The strength of the class—'cultivators

is nearly four times that of the class—'agricultural labourers'. The number of female workers in the class—'cultivators' is less than that of the male workers, while the number of female workers in the class 'agricultural labourers', is in excess of the number of male workers.

The latest census of 1971 records that out of the total workers of 1,064,899 persons in the District, 407,803 persons (38.3 per cent) are cultivators and 268 713 persons (25.2 per cent) are agricultural labourers.

The agrarian economic structure of the District is slightly varied from area to area in the District, Srivilliputtur and Sattur Taluks were used to the settled system of ryotwari administration with its attendant benefits. The agricultural communities living in these taluks are comparatively better off than those in the ex-zamindari patch under the Marava chieftains (consisting of the major portion of the former zamindari areas). The third area, called the *Chettinad* area covering the taluks of Tirupattur, Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai taluks, though also lying in an ex-zamindari area, presents a different picture. It is also mainly agricultural but is highly developed. The population of the remaining parts of the District have no dependable irrigation facilities and are generally poorer than those in the other parts of the District enumerated above.

Generally speaking most of the ryots in the District are in comparatively poor circumstances. Among the districts of the State, the per capita annual income from *primary* sources was the lowest in the District. According to the National Council's estimates<sup>1</sup> (relating to the year 1955-56 it was Rs. 66.80 against the corresponding State average of Rs. 99.23). Using the value of output per acre (gross) as an index of agricultural productivity and analysing the Districts of the State, it is also seen that the gross value of output per acre of cropped area in the District was the lowest. In 1955-56, it was Rs. 144 against the State average of Rs. 183.

Holding in the District as elsewhere in the State are mostly small. The average size of the holding in the District in the ryotwari area was estimated in 1940-41 (see *Madras Agriculture* by C. W. D. Zacharias) to be (dry and wet) 3.1 acres (dry : 2.81 acres ; wet : 0.30 acre) against the then State average of 3.7 acres. In 1940-41, in the ryotwari areas of the District, the majority of the holdings (83,273 holdings) paid an assessment of only 10 and under; 14,054 holdings paid an assessment of Rs. 30 and less but over Rs. 10 and 1,794 holdings paid an assessment of Rs. 50 and less but over Rs. 30. Only very small numbers paid assessment of Rs. 100 and less but over Rs. 50 and over Rs. 100. The numbers of these holdings were 730 and 189 respectively.

The following table shows that the number of holdings of various values for ryotwari villages in the District for the *Fasli* year 1372 (1962-63 July to June).

<sup>1</sup> National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, Techno Economic Survey of Madras (Economic Report) 1960, page, 19.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HOLDINGS OF VARIOUS VALUES IN THE DISTRICT FOR BYOTWARI VILLAGES FOR FASLI 1372 (1962-63).  
JULY TO JUNE).

| Classification of holdings.               | Single holdings.    |          |               |               |                          | Joint holdings.     |                       |               |               |                          |
|---|---------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|   | Extent of holdings. |          |               | Number        |                          | Extent of holdings. |                       |               | Number        |                          |
|   | (1)                 | (2)      | (3)           | (4)           | (5)                      | (6)                 | (7)                   | (8)           | (9)           | (10)                     |
|   |                     |          | Dry<br>acres. | Wet<br>acres. | Asses-<br>ment in<br>RS. | of pottas.          | of shares.<br>holder. | Dry<br>acres. | Wet<br>acres. | Asses-<br>ment in<br>RS. |
| Rupee one and less .. ..                  | ..                  | 1,04,081 | 62,502        | 8,758         | 86,732                   | 51,192              | 1,58,452              | 37,278        | 6,034         | 60,754                   |
| Rs. 10 and less but over Re. 1 .. ..      | ..                  | 2,48,622 | 3,55,321      | 90,938        | 8,67,255                 | 88,589              | 3,09,040              | 2,43,485      | 36,711        | 4,40,496                 |
| Rs. 30 and less but over Rs. 10 .. ..     | ..                  | 63,677   | 2,30,413      | 1,04,344      | 8,19,078                 | 33,414              | 4,09,367              | 1,75,562      | 30,702        | 3,07,083                 |
| Rs. 50 and less but over Rs. 30 .. ..     | ..                  | 12,190   | 82,125        | 46,026        | 2,97,181                 | 13,034              | 39,949                | 58,384        | 14,412        | 1,58,075                 |
| Rs. 100 and less but over Rs. 50 .. ..    | ..                  | 4,893    | 58,264        | 36,075        | 2,35,044                 | 11,042              | 15,225                | 39,489        | 15,358        | 1,27,621                 |
| Rs. 250 and less but over Rs. 100 .. ..   | ..                  | 1,665    | 37,311        | 12,047        | 1,18,503                 | 6,475               | 19,410                | 16,886        | 10,190        | 74,271                   |
| Rs. 500 and less but over Rs. 250 .. ..   | ..                  | 49       | 4,591         | 2,275         | 48,731                   | 24                  | 104                   | 6,123         | 2,140         | 16,871                   |
| Rs. 1,000 and less but over Rs. 500 .. .. | ..                  | 12       | 1,074         | 377           | 3,617                    | 13                  | 46                    | 1,278         | 1,428         | 8,405                    |
| Over Rs. 1,000 .. ..                      | ..                  | 1        | 11            | 213           | 1,255                    | 1                   | 5                     | 156           | 161           | 1,085                    |
| Total .. ..                               | ..                  | 4,35,190 | 8,31,612      | 3,01,053      | 24,77,396                | 2,03,784            | 9,51,598              | 5,78,641      | 1,17,136      | 11,94,569                |

The recent land reform measures have benefited the ryots of the District in no small measure. The abolition of Zamindari was the greatest blessing on the ryots. In 1947, the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947 was enacted. It provided for the reduction of rents payable by ryots in estates governed by the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, approximately to the level of the assessment levied on rents in ryotwari areas in the neighbourhood and for the collection of such rents by the Government so that the Zamindar may not collect rents in excess in contravention of the Act. In 1948, a more progressive reformatory legislation was passed. It was the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, which provided for the repeal of the permanent Settlement and for the introduction of the ryotwari settlement in such estates. In the District, of the present 9 taluks, 7 taluks were part of the Ramana-thapuram and Sivaganga Zamindaris. The ryots in the Zamindari had to give nearly half the produce in the case of wet lands and one third of the produce in the case of dry lands as tax to the Zamindar. Moreover from the share falling on the ryots, a major portion would be eaten away by the costs of cultivation and harvesting. Hence what may be left to the ryot will be only a very meagre share just enough for his subsistence : in some cases it may not even cover the margin of subsistence and may fall below it. Thus the ryots in the zamindari areas had to live in a state of poverty and indebtedness. The ryots also had no initiative to produce more, as under the Zamindari system, the major share of the produce went over to the Zamindars. All these contributed to the ryots of the Zamindari areas living in a state of poverty and with absolutely no interest to increase the yield on their lands. With the abolition of the Zamindaris the entire face of the agricultural economy of the District had changed. The ryots are now far more happier and are resorting to improved methods of agriculture to increase their production on lands. Their earnings have consequently increased. Now they have not to pay heavy and oppressive taxes. Formerly in the Zamindari areas a ryot had to give at the rate of 5 *kalams* of produce per acre on the wet lands the value of which was about Rs. 100. Now the ryot pays only Rs. 10 per acre as *kist*. Under the Zamindars the irrigational facilities of the District did not receive any attention at all and fell into disuse and consequently the ryots suffered. Now, after the taking over of the Zamindaris, the irrigational facilities of the District have been greatly improved resulting in greater agricultural outputs and greater prosperity to the agriculturists.

The Madras Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956 which provided fair rent by cultivating tenants also went a long way in improving the good relations between the landowners and tenants and in conferring huge benefits on the cultivating tenants. Under the Act, on wet lands the share of the produce for the cultivating tenant was fixed at 60 per cent of the total produce on the land concerned.

The agricultural labourers in the District, as elsewhere, are dependant on the ryots and are generally poor. The following are the average daily wages paid to the agricultural labour in the District

| Type of Labour.                      | Wages paid per day<br>(June 1962) |    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| (1)                                  | (2)                               |    |
|                                      | RS.                               | P. |
| <i>Field Labourers—</i>              |                                   |    |
| Ploughers sowers and transplanters   |                                   |    |
| weeders and reapers and harvesters—  |                                   |    |
| Men .. .. .                          | 1                                 | 50 |
| Women .. .. .                        | 1                                 | 00 |
| Non-adults .. .. .                   | 0                                 | 75 |
| <i>Herdsmen—</i>                     |                                   |    |
| Men .. .. .                          | 1                                 | 25 |
| Women .. .. .                        | ..                                | .. |
| Non-adults .. .. .                   | 1                                 | 00 |
| <i>Other agricultural labourers—</i> |                                   |    |
| Men .. .. .                          | 1                                 | 50 |
| Women .. .. .                        | 1                                 | 00 |
| Non-adults .. .. .                   | ..                                | .. |

In 1959 minimum rates of wages have also been fixed for employment in agriculture under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The minimum rates of wages are as follows :

| Class of Employees.  | Minimum rate of<br>wages per day |    |
|--|----------------------------------|----|
| (1)  | (2)                              |    |
|  | RS.                              | P. |
| 1. Employees engaged in ploughing (with-<br>out bullocks and ploughs). | 1                                | 25 |
| 2. Employees engaged in sowing and<br>transplanting—                   |                                  |    |
| Adults—  |                                  |    |
| Grade I .. .. .  | 1                                | 00 |
| Grade II .. .. .   | 0                                | 87 |
| Non-adults .. .. .   | 0                                | 75 |
| 3. Other agricultural employees—                                       |                                  |    |
| Adults—  |                                  |    |
| Grade I .. .. .  | 0                                | 87 |
| Grade II .. .. .   | 0                                | 75 |
| Non-adults .. .. .   | 0                                | 62 |

(NOTE.—The classification of employees into Grade I and II is based on physical capacity and outturn of work.

Generally speaking and on the whole, the average daily wages paid to agricultural workers in the District compared favourably with the minimum rates of wages fixed under the enactment.

With the commendable land reform measures already undertaken and implemented, with the Agricultural Department and Co-operatives ceaselessly rendering the maximum aid to the agriculturists, and with the recent establishment of the *Panchayat Raj* to deal directly with the development of the *Panchayats*, the future progress and prosperity of the agriculturists of the District are very much assured.



## APPENDIX I.

The following table shows the calendar of weather conditions in the District and their effects on agricultural operations :—

| <i>Month.</i>  | <i>Normal weather.</i>   | <i>Effects of unseasonable or abnormal weather on the various crops</i>  |
|----------------|--|--|
| (1)            | (2)  | (3)  |
| January .. ..  | Dry season begins—Fine weather generally with light showers. Hot days and cold nights with dew falling.  | <p>There is generally no rain. But light showers are experienced here and there. Heavy rainfall retard the harvest of paddy and affects the nature of crops of paddy and groundnut. It is injurious to the late sown and tender Gingili and causes shedding of buds and small bolls of cotton in black soil areas.</p> <p>Moderate rainfall postpones the harvest of ripe crops and is harmful to the standing cotton crop. But it is beneficial to the standing and tender crops like paddy, tobacco, etc., and accelerates sowings of Gingili. Light rains are useful to groundnut.</p> <p>Absence of rainfall is helpful to the harvest of paddy but not to crops like tobacco.</p> |
| February .. .. | Fine weather generally with little or no showers. Hot days and cold nights with dew a continuing.  | <p>Heavy rainfall interferes with sowing of Masipattam Cambodia and the late gingili and affects their germination. It is injurious to the tender crops of late gingili and standing cotton crop and spoils the quality of cotton picking. Retards harvest of all ripe crops.</p> <p>Modern rainfall damages cotton to a less extent but is beneficial to the standing crops of paddy not ripe for harvest. Absence of rainfall is favourable to harvest but tells upon the outturn of the standing paddy crop.</p>  |
| March .. ..    | Fine weather generally. Hot days. Dew abates in the earlier parts of the month and the nights become warm or sultry as the month advances. Generally rainless. | <p>Heavy rainfall hampers the sowings of Masipattam Cambodia and cholam. It is highly injurious to the yielding cotton and damages the pickings. Germination of the seeds of the recent sowings of cotton and gingili is affected as also the standing crop of sugarcane. Retards the harvest of paddy, sugarcane and the dry crops sown late in the season.</p>   |

Moderate rainfall is beneficial to the transplantation of the second crop and short crop paddy and ragi and the standing crops of cholam, paddy gingili damages crops under harvest and spoils the quality of cotton pickings.

Absence of rainfall affects the outturn of the standing crops.

**April** .. .. Fine weather, no showers generally. Hottest month in the year. Days are hot and nights sultry.

Heavy rainfall interferes with the cultivation of irrigated groundnut, cambodia cotton and sugarcane. It is injurious to the standing crops of cotton; sugarcane and gingili. Spoils the quality of cotton.

Moderate rainfall is injurious to cotton to a less extent and is beneficial to gingili, cholam, Masipattam cotton and second crop paddy. Helps to commence summer ploughing of dry lands.

Absence of rain aids the completion of harvests.

**May** .. .. Dry weather with occasional pre-monsoon drizzlings. Days are not generally but slightly mitigated by passing clouds wafted by the breezy south-westerly winds.

Heavy rainfall is injurious to the tender crops of groundnut, Cambodia cotton and sugarcane and damages cotton in the dry area which by this time will be in flowers and bolls for second picking. Mature second crop paddy is damaged and its harvest and the harvest of irrigated cumbu and cholam are retarded. Moderate rainfall is beneficial to sugarcane, groundnut, Cambodia cotton and second crop paddy and facilitates the ploughing of dry lands.

Absence of rain postpones the ploughing of dry lands.

**June** .. .. Setting in of the south-west monsoon. Fine weather hot days with passing clouds and breezy nights. Drizzlings and light rains are experienced in the Srivilliputhur and Sattur taluks.

Heavy rainfall retards the cultivation of irrigated ragi and cumbu, damages ripe second crop and short crop paddy and delays its harvest. Moderate rainfall is beneficial to the standing crops of sugarcane, ragi, paddy and irrigated groundnut. Is helpful to the ploughing of dry land.

Absence of rainfall postpones ploughings.

- July**     ..     ..     South-west monsoon in progress as indicated by the winds. Atmospheric temperature falls slightly. Agreeable days and breezy nights. Light showers are received in parts of the district.
- Heavy rainfall affects the quality of second pickings of Cam-  
bodia and Tinnevelles and is  
injurious to the standing crop  
like ragi and groundnut.  
Damages ripe short crop of  
second crop paddy and retards  
the harvest of cumbu. Mod-  
erate rainfall is helpful to the  
growth and increase in the  
yield of irrigated groundnut  
in the Srivilliputtur taluk. It  
helps in preparing dry lands  
for sowing of broadcast paddy  
and in the actual sowing of  
dry crops in parts of the  
District.
- August**     ..     ..     South-west monsoon in full  
swing. The bulk of the  
monsoon rainfall in this  
month. Fine weather.  
Hot and windy days with  
breezy nights. Agreeable  
climatic conditions gene-  
rally.
- Absence of rainfall reduces the  
yield of groundnut in the  
Srivilliputtur taluk and  
cotton and postpones plough-  
ing of land and sowings of  
dry crops in parts of the  
District.
- The sowing of the dry crops of  
the district under normal  
conditions begins. Heavy  
rainfall retards the sowings of  
groundnut, varagu, castor  
ragi, samai and paddy in dry  
lands. Interferes with picking  
of cotton in the Srivilliputtur  
taluk and affects its quality
- Moderate rainfall is helpful for  
sowing and the germination  
of the sown crops. Insuffi-  
cient rains reduce the area  
sown with dry crops men-  
tioned above.
- Absence of rains retards the  
agricultural operations and  
postpones sowings.
- September**     ..     South-west monsoon active  
and general but slackens  
towards the end. Mode-  
rate rains are received.  
Winds abate. Weather  
generally pleasant with  
cool dawns.
- The proper sowing season for  
dry areas continues. Heavy  
rainfall retards sowings of  
dry crops such as groundnut,  
ragi, varagu, Samai, black-  
gram, horsegram, cotton and  
broadcast paddy. Affects the  
germination of seeds sown in  
August.

Moderate rainfall is beneficial to tender and standing crops and facilitates further sowings of paddy and dry crops such as cholam, cumbu, and cotton besides those mentioned above. Sowings of seed beds and nurseries are accelerated. Absence of rainfall reduces the area under the dry crops postponing further sowings. Retards the ploughing and the preparation of wet lands for the coming wet season. Light rains assist the germination of the newly sown crops.

**October** .. .. Change in the weather conditions begins. The north-east monsoon sets in about the middle of the month. Days are agreeable and the nights are breezy. There is much rainfall. Busy Agricultural season.

The irrigation sources get supplies. Heavy and continuous rainfall interferes with the sowings of dry crops not already sown and cotton and affects the tender plants of horsegram, cotton, etc., Retards the transplantation of paddy and affects the seedlings and the tender plants of the late sown dry crops. Moderate rainfall assists in the further sowings of dry crops and paddy. It is beneficial to tender and standing crops elsewhere in the District.

Absence of rain is felt disappointingly. The area under dry crops and cotton is lessened and the crops already sown begin to fade if they had not the benefit of moderate September showers.

**November** .. The North-east monsoon is very active. Heavy down-pour of rain is received generally in this month. Cold days and damp nights. The irrigation tanks get full supplies and begin to surplus. The busiest time for the ryots.

Heavy and uninterrupted rainfall interferes with sowings of cotton. Is injurious to tender crops of varagu, cumbu, samai pulses and groundnut and damages young transplanted paddy. Abnormal rains cause floods and damage the standing dry and wet crops alike. Interferes with the further sowings. Moderate intermittent rainfall is the desired amount of the month as it helps in lodging the transplanted paddy crops and making them strike root. It is generally beneficial to all wet and dry standing crops. Absence of rainfall affects the supplies to the tanks but aids weeding in the wet lands.

Dry crops which had not the benefit of September and October rains wither.

**December . . . .** The north-east monsoon slackens and finally closes with the month. Intermittent showers are received now and then. Usually bright weather.

Heavy rainfall though useful in augmenting supplies in the irrigation tanks is detrimental to the harvest of groundnut, varagu, samai, and horsegram sown early in the season, and to the ripe crops of paddy, cotton, gingili and chillies. Moderate rainfall facilitates the transplantation of the late *kalam* paddy and the further sowings of dry crops.

Absence of rains tells upon the outturn of the late sown paddy but facilitates the harvest of early paddy and dry crops which will have become ripe for harvest by now.



## CHAPTER V—INDUSTRIES.

### OLD TIME INDUSTRIES.

*Pearl and Chank Fisheries:*—From times immemorial the Ramanathapuram District has been famous for its pearls. The Pandyan kings who ruled over the District in the early centuries of the Christian era exploited to the full the pearl fisheries of the east coasts. The Cholas who later succeeded the Pandyas in their hold on these regions not only continued the pearl fishing but also developed it with great care in the Palk Bay. By far the largest quantity of pearls extracted from the seas were exported to the Mediterranean countries. Besides, the pearls, the conch-shells were also extracted off the Ramanathapuram Coast. Though Ceylon was the largest producer of the chank the best of the chanks were taken from the coast of Ramanathapuram District. The chanks of this District were used to a very large extent for the making of bangles.

The pearl industry of the District attracted foreign merchants and tarvellers from far off European countries. These foreigners found the pearl industry in a fully developed state and wrote in praise of the high skill employed in the different processes of pearl extraction. Kilakkarai on the Ramanathapuram coast was an important emporium for pearls<sup>1</sup>. A large number of colonies of fishermen who specialised themselves in pearl fishing were found near this place. The fishers dived in the deep sea as the pearls of deep sea were considered to be of great value. The fishers dived with their fishing nets in their hands with which they caught the shoal. The *Sangam* works like the *Agananuru*, the *Purananuru*, *Kalithogai*, *Silapathikaram* etc., also testify to the flourishing state of this industry. The fishers after their diving operations collected the oysters on the sea bed. About the 6th Century A.D., Cosmos Indico—Pleustes (530-550 A.D.), an Egyptian traveller, makes reference in his accounts to the chank and pearl market at Marallow, which has been identified with the chank and pearl fishery of the Ramanathapuram coast.<sup>2</sup>

About the middle of the 9th century, the Arabs came into contact with the pearl fishery of Ramanathapuram coast and had noticed the pearl and chank industries thriving well. Two of the Arab writers Sulaiman and Abu Zaid have recorded that pearls were valued as greatest treasures by the local kings. During the 10th and 11th centuries, the Imperial Cholas were in possession

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1. Kolkhoi referred to by Ptolemy is identified with Kilakkarai of the Ramanathapuram District by Lassen. S. Arunachalam: *The History of the Pearl Fishery of the Tamil Coast*, page 15.

2. *Ibid* ; page 56.

of this coast and there are no records to give authentic information on pearl industry. Only a few of their inscriptions record the grants of pearls to the temples. During the period of the later Pandyas (12th and 13th centuries) the pearl industry in this region was a flourishing one. Marco Polo (1260-1300), who travelled in South India during this period, says in his account that the later Pandyas monopolised the pearl industry and did not allow any one to take pearls out of the kingdom. He also gives a description of the pearl fishery in the Tamil Coast.

When the Nayaks became the masters of the region, the coastal region was in the control of the Portuguese, under whom the pearl industry was prosperous and brought a large amount of revenue to them. The Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram the tributary of the Nayaks, who was ruling over the Ramanathapuram region helped the Portuguese to carry on pearl fishing activities. Moreover, the safe custody of the Pamban Pass which separated the main land from Rameswaram was guaranteed by the Sethupathi. In return for this help, the Sethupathi was given 60 free stones from each fishery. In addition to this he was also entitled to one day's fishing every season. Between 1658 and 1796 A.D. the Dutch captured the fishery coast from the Portuguese. The Dutch conducted fishery periodically and the Sethupathi continued to render assistance to them by lending his boats free of tax. From the accounts given by Tavernier, who visited South India between 1670 and 1689 it is clear that the pearl industry continued to be as flourishing as before. At the fishery of 1691 about 385 stones were admitted free, of which 96½ stones were for the Nayak of Madura while 59 were for the Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram. Between 1683 and 1708 when Manucci visited South India, there was a marked deterioration of the pearl industry in the region. In 1746, the Dutch became powerful in the fishery coast and abolished all privileges enjoyed by the Raja of Ramnad and even banned the visit of the Raja to the fishery coast. Between 1749 and 1784 no pearl fishery was held. But there were annual operations for chank fishery. In 1746, the Dutch let the pearl fishery for a fixed amount to the highest individual bidder. When the fishery coast passed on to the British, the chank industry was very prosperous one. The pearl in the 19th century continued to deteriorate and about the beginning of this century the pearl fishery was completely abandoned. This was mainly because of the impoverishment of the pearl banks. But during this period the chank fishery continued to be carried on. In the beginning of the century, Ramanathapuram coast was a famous chank fishery. The chanks of Ramanathapuram were classified into three, based on the places where they were fished, namely, (1) off the main land north and south of Kilakkarai, (2) between the north of Rameswaram island and Kacha Tivu and (3) midway to the Jaffna to the north of Mantapam. The first and second types of shells were of very rare quality and were sold for very high prices. The third one was inferior in size, shape and colour.

*Cotton Cloth and Carpets:*—Besides the pearls and chanks, the District was also famous for its cotton cloths and carpets. The chief manufacturing towns in the District were Paramagudi, Kilakkarai, Kamudi, Abiramam, Aruppukkottai, Palaymatti, Kadaladi Yekagudi and Kottapattanam. These manufactures were carried on from very early times and the British East India Company had its commercial resident at Ramanathapuram for the purpose of procuring cloth for the English market. After the invention of machinery, the weaving community of the District had fallen into great indigence and their products could not compete with the European machine made cloth.

### MODERN INDUSTRIES.

*Mining Industries:*—The mineral possibilities of the Ramanathapuram District are not very great, as the mineral resources of the District do not include important mineral deposits like iron, copper, manganese ores, etc., which are essential for starting the basic large-scale industries in the District. However, some of the common minerals of high quality which are being extracted in the District are made use of in several industries. The extraction of such minerals gives scope for the starting of chemical industries using the raw materials available in the District. Ancient crystalline rocks (Archaeans) containing valuable minerals like crystalline limestones and graphite are found in the western taluks of Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Aruppukkottai and large portions of the taluks of Tirupattur and Sivaganga. The eastern taluks of Tiruvadanai, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur comprise of rocks consisting of clays and sandstones which are of economic value.

Of the minerals found in the District lime-stones, clays, ocheres, gypsum, graphite and limenite sand are of great value, for the economic development of the District<sup>1</sup>.

*Quartzites:*—These rocks are very commonly found as residual hills and knolls with steep escarpments and as high grounds. They occur as bands extending over a mile along the general strike of the rocks. Widespread occurrence of these rocks are seen in the western region of the Tirupattur taluk. Here the quartzites are white, massive and resemble quartz veins at many places. Traces of bedding are notable and the unmistakable schistosity is being exhibited by these rocks where they carry forchsite mica. Numerous scales of mica and magnetite have left their depressions in the rocks. Occasionally in some of the quartzites, tourmaline, diopside, hornblende are seen. In certain places quartzites carry sillimanite needles.

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1. *Souvenir of the Industries Seminar, Ramanathapuram, July 1963, pages 47-49 and 73-77.*



The quartzites are well exposed in the following places:—

(i) *Tiruppattur Taluk*:—About a mile west of Kattukudipatti, where a number of quartzite bands of several hundred feet wide are seen with intercalations of thin bands of calc-gneisses. Total width of these is about 2 miles and the length is about 4 miles.

(ii) north of Puludipatti.

(iii) on the eastern and northern sides of Piranmalai.

(iv) south-east of Pulangurichchi.

Mallampatti (Aruppukkottai Taluk).

Gopalaswamymalai (Sattur Taluk).

*Calc-gneiss, calciphyres and limestones*:—These rocks occur as bands including minor impurities in Aruppukkottai, Sattur and Sivaganga taluks. They conform to the flexured and contorted nature of the associated gneissic rocks. The limestones of this district are white, coarse grained and comprise coarse calcitic crystals and minor impurities like diopside, quartz, graphite, mica and albite. They are described in detail separately.

*Basic metamorphic rocks*:—Basic metamorphic rocks such as biotite schists, epidiorites, amphibolites and calc pyroxene-granulites, are seen as patches and lenticular masses amidst the granite gneisses which are predominant in the western portions of the district. In their strike and dips they conform to the gneissic rocks. They are dark in colour, coarse, friable and easily weathered. In many places the rocks have been sheared and contorted. They possess a rough achistosity. Epidiorites are seen (i) in the streams east and north of Elayirampennai (ii) to the south of Pusaripatti and (iii) to the west of Thiruthangal in the Sattur Taluk. Bands of dark green calcpyroxene granulites are seen exposed in stream cuttings south of Pusaripatti and near Suppalapuram, Vettilaiyoorani and half a mile south of Iraichinnampatti in the Sattur Taluk. In their sections the pyroxene granulite shows diopside, laprodorite, garnet, apatite and iron oxide minerals.

*Complex gneisses*:—Under this caption, garnetiferous-sillimanite gneiss, hornblende gneiss and granitoid gneisses are included. These gneisses form the chief rock types of Aruppukkottai, Srivilliputur, Tiruppattur and Sattur taluks. They occur mostly as bands and contain basic inclusions, and stand as high grounds and knolls. The foliation is well exhibited where they contain garnet, biotite and sillimanite. They are coarse and extremely felspathic in the Tiruppattur Taluk.

In the western region outcrops of bands of garnetiferous and mica gneisses are seen along stream courses around Elayirampennai west of Tiruttangal near Sivakasi and another occurrence carrying sillimanite needles, is seen about half a mile north-east of Aiyana-puram. Well foliated granitic gneisses are seen around Sattur.

Exposures of garnetiferous sillimanite-gneisses are seen along with biotite gneiss about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Malaipatti. Another large exposure of gneissic rock is seen around Kundalakuttai.

Hornblende gneiss is occasionally met with in this region. The hill, 352,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Mettamalai, is made out of this gneiss.

In the eastern region large exposures of hornblende gneisses are seen near Kunnakkudi, Kummangudi, Pillayarpatti, etc. Around Kunnakkudi the gneisses contain appreciable amounts of hornblende, biotite and tabular crystals of allanite. The hornblende and allanite crystals are arranged parallel to the banding of gneisses and their concentration lies near the contact of gneisses with basic inclusion.

Granite gneisses which occur as bands crop out in most places. The Piranmalai hill and the hill near Puludipatti are composed of this gneiss. A number of thin bands of pyroxene granulites are seen within the granitic gneiss. Many exposures of this rock are seen around Pulangurichchi, Pudur and Kilasevalpatti.

Garnetiferous-sillimanite gneiss occurs in association with hornblende-gneiss, near Vairavanpatti and in association with sillimanite bearing quartzites near Ulagampatti, two furlongs north of Singampurani and near Pulangurichchi. Large bands of garnetiferous gneiss occur near Illayattankudi.

*Charnockites*:—In the western portions of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks the charnockites form the predominant rock type occur over hills and plains whereas in Tirupattur and Aruppukkottai taluks the charnockites occur as bands in association with the bands of calc granulites traversing the gneisses. Charnockites are mostly of acid type. The rocks appear to be much disturbed and are often thrown into minute ptyrmatic folds. They comprise granular mixture of quartz-felspar (chiefly microcline, orthoclase and oblige-clase) biotite and hypersthene. In some places the texture is very coarse and large crystals of felspar and hypersthene are intergrown together.

In the western region of the district the hills around Rajapalayam, Sattur and Srivilliputtur comprise wholly charnokites of acid type. To the north and east of Kallurani there is a wide zone of hybrid charnockites. Local admixtures of epidiorites and even calciphyric materials have been found in the charnockites of Kallurani. About two furlongs south of Jakkammalpuram large bands of hybrid charnockites are found amidst gneisses. At places the charnockites contain disseminated graphite flakes.

In the east the hill Piranmalai wholly comprises acid charnockite. In the plains there are a number of bands of acid charnockites in association with calc gneisses on the northern side of

Kambanur, three miles south of Tiruppattur. Here pegmatite modifications of this rock carrying very coarse crystals of pyroxene and greenish (almost transparent) feldspars are common. Charnokitic materials occur in disconnected patches in the gneisses near Pillayarpatti and Kunnakkudi.

*Younger granites and pegmatites:*—In the central portions of the Ramanathapuram district large bands of pegmatites and tourmaline bearing granites are of frequent occurrence, especially around Pulangurichchi, Pudur and Ulagampatti of the Tiruppattur Taluk. These younger intrusions traverse following the foliation planes of gneisses of all type.

*Upper Gondwana Formations:*—Underlain by the Archaeans large exposures of upper Gondwana formation crop out in the region west of Sivaganga and partly in the Tiruppattur taluk. The Upper Gondwanas comprise boulder beds, gritty sandstones, shales and clays all of lacustrine formations with occasional fossils of floral assemblages. The shales are gritty, generally red, yellow or purple in colour, fissile and bedded. Gondwana shale and clays are known to occur near Sivaganga, Kallal and Managiri. Plant remains belong to Upper Gondwana (Upper Triassic to middle Jurassic species of pteridosperms, conifers, etc.). Some of them are worth mentioning. They are *Cladophelebis lobata*, *Taeniopteris spatula*, *Ginkgoites*, *Grassipes*, *Brachyphyllum expansum*, *Elatocladus plana*, etc.

Recently while sinking a tube well for the State Seed Farm near Karaikkudi it was found that fossiliferous and calcareous sandstones of over 400 feet thickness are found below Tertiary rocks of 100 feet thick of ferruginous sandstones and clays of variegated colours. The fossils resemble those of Upper Cretaceous age in Tiruchirappalli district. They contain fossils of lamellibranch and gasteropods. Further work in this area may reveal the probable age of those formations.

Tertiary formations are represented by ferruginous sandstones having 50 to 100 feet thickness and covering a wide area parallel to the coastal lines in the eastern regions of Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks. Sandstones are capped by the 5 to 10 feet thickness laterites. Sandstones are reddish brown to buff coloured, unfossiliferous and are similar to that of Cuddalore sandstones.

#### SUB-RECENT AND RECENT FORMATIONS.

*Laterites:*—The region east of Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks for the most part is covered by red laterites. Though laterites cover mostly sandstones of Tertiary age, their occurrence over Archaeans and Gondwanas are also noticeable. The thickness of the laterites over sandstones is much greater than over the Archaean terrain. In Tiruppattur taluk between Kanadukathan and Pallattur and around Kovilur the laterites have a thickness of 10 to 15 feet.

Laterites bear hard vermicular and irregular pisolitic gravel and carry hard pellets of concretionary hematite cemented by ferruginous material for the first three feet from the surface. Below this is seen red sandy material carrying coarse pebbles of quartz.

*Calcareous sandstones*:—Brown to light grey and coarse grained calcareous sandstones carrying broken shells are known to occur in whole of the Rameswaram Island. It extends west wards to the mainland and forms the sea floor on the Pamban channel. The sandstone forms a more or less continuous fringe along the coast from Pamban to Cape Comorin in the south, with low dips towards sea.

*Coral limestones*:—Marine limestones consisting of coral fragments broken shells and other calcareous materials occur along the northern shores of the Rameswaram Island covering a wide area. The corals in the upraised reef include species of porites *Favia abdita*, *Madrepora* and *Echinopora*.

The several small islands between Tuticorin in the south and Pamban in the north are fringed by a narrow reef of growing corals which grow out of the shallow tropical sea bed in the Gulf of Manar. These corals which form very pure calcium carbonate are used locally for manufacture of lime and chemicals like calcium carbide, etc.

*Soils*:—Three varieties of soil (i) red soil, (ii) black cotton soil and (iii) alluvial soil are predominant in the Ramanathapuram District. Red soil covers most of the Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks and is highly ferruginous and has an average thickness of 10 feet. It is loose, sandy and is rather infertile. This soil is suitable for cashew, plantain and jack trees. Recently experiments are being conducted to grow blue eucalyptus in such soil near Karaikudi.

Black cotton soil occupies most of the area in Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukkottai taluks. It is clayey, and loamy and encloses nodules of kankar and occasionally gypsum. It absorbs water and swells enormously. On drying the shrinkage is so great that it leaves large cracks in the mud which help in proper aeration of the soil.

The black soil is comparatively rich and well suited for dry crops such as millets, pulses, cotton, chillies, onions, sugar cane etc.

The tracts parallel to the river courses are rich in alluvial soils. The *Vaipar* river and its numerous small tributaries have brought down these alluvial soils from Western hills. The *Vaigai*, *Manimuthar*, *Pambar* and *Pallar* rivers are responsible for the presence of large stretches of alluvium in the eastern portions of the district. The alluvial soils are fertile and are suitable for paddy cultivation. Almost the entire taluks of Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, Mudukulattur and Tiruvadana as well as large stretches in Sivaganga and Tiruppattur are covered by sandy alluvium. The soils are generally fertile where they are not saline in nature. Alluvial soils generally contain appreciable amount of water.

*Sand dunes*:—There are two types of sand dunes along the coastal tracts ; (i) old red sand dunes of 'terris' and (ii) white younger dunes which are wind blown deposits.

*Old red sand dunes*:—These consist of red and fine sand. These sand dunes are seen some four or five miles from the seashore as may be seen south of Sayalkudi in the Mudukulattur Taluk. Another typical example of this sand dune lies near Oriyur village in the Tiruvadanai taluk. The red colour of these dunes may be due to the ferruginous material in the sand.

*Younger white dunes*.—There are small wind blown white sand dunes all along the east coast. They comprise quartz, felspar and broken fragments of shells. The southern half of the Rameswaram Island is covered with a number of sand dunes, some of them 40 or 50 feet high. The dunes show a general migratory trend towards north.

#### Mineral resources of the Ramanathapuram District.

Though no important minerals like coal, iron ore or bauxite is found, the Ramanathapuram district has potentialities for other minerals such as limestone, graphite, clay and gypsum which could support medium and small scale industries.

Brief description of important economic minerals are given below :—

*Crystalline limestones*:—These are generally of a white or pale pink or yellow colour and consist of aggregates of coarse rhombic crystals of calcite (calcium carbonate). The limestones occur as long narrow bands, ranging from 30 to 300 feet in width and extending to several furlongs in length. The depth of persistence of the different limestone bands can only be proved by drilling and therefore the reserves of limestone in each band has been estimated only for depth of 20 to 30 feet, based on evidence from wells within the limestone area. However, from experience gathered in Tirunelveli and other areas where such limestones have been worked to depth of 100 feet, it is probable that these deposits may also extend to such depths. The impurities in the limestones are generally in the form of magnesium silicates, which in some cases occur as pockets that can be discarded by hand-picking after mining. The limestones are generally pure and may find use in the manufacture of chemicals like calcium carbide, soda ash, etc., and in cement manufacture. The following are the important crystalline limestone deposits in the district.

#### ARUPPUKKOTTAI TALUK.

*Pandalgudi*:—About a mile south of Pandalgudi village a band of limestone about 250 feet wide may be seen cutting the Aruppu-kottai-Ettiappuram road and trending in a north-westerly direction for a distance of about four miles. The limestone is of good grade,

containing 80 to 95 per cent  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and is believed to contain about 5 million tons for a depth of 30 feet. This estimate appears conservative and the actual deposit may be much more.

There are also a number of small bands around Pandalgudi and Aruppukkottai.

*Palavanattam*:—A band of crystalline limestone similar to the one near Pandalgudi is found about half a mile north of Palavanattam and can be traced eastward for about two miles under the black soil cover. The deposit may contain about 5 million tons of good quality limestone for a depth of 30 feet. Large portions of the limestone deposit have been dug out and removed near Palavanattam village.

#### SATTUR TALUK.

*Chinnayapuram*:—A wide band of good quality crystalline limestone near Chinnayapuram is being mined by Messrs. Madras Cements, Limited, for their plant at Tulukkapatti.

*Alangulam*:—This village lies about 12 miles east of Rajapalayam and an equal distance to the south of Srivilliputtur. Three narrow bands of limestone are traceable for a distance of nearly three miles to the south-west of Alangulam village. It is probable that the bands continue further to form the limestone occurrences near Pandapuli and Gopalapuram in the Sankarankoil Taluk of the Tirunelveli district. The limestones are again exposed about two miles eastnorth-east of Alangulam and near Kallamanaickanpatti.

Recently the State Geology Branch carried out prospecting work in the area and analysed a very large number of samples. The results indicate that about 18 million tons of limestone of good quality containing over 85 per cent  $\text{CaCO}_3$  may be obtained from the deposits at Alangulam and Kallamaniakanpatti for a depth of 30 feet. These limestones are suitable for cement manufacture and the purer portions can find use in the manufacture of chemicals. Steps are being taken to determine the best way in which these limestones can be used in a major industry in the region. A large sized cement factory is proposed for this area.

There are few other small bands of crystalline limestone in the Ramanathapuram District and the State Geology Branch is investigating them in detail to determine the quality and quantity of limestone in each band and the particular type of industry in which it can be used.

*Marine limestones*:—These limestones are formed by the accumulation of broken sea shells and coral material which are rich in calcium carbonate at the floor of the shallow coastal sea.

*Rameswaram*:—A limestone bed of marine origin is found to the north of Rameswaram village in a flat, low-lying area, known locally as Taruvai, in the northern portion of Rameswaram Island. The

limestone bed is superficial and irregular in thickness which varies from 5 to 10 feet but it spreads over an area of about 1.5 square miles. It is in the nature of an upraised coral reef and is built of broken coral and shell material bonded by a calcareous cement. The limestone contains 70 to 85 per cent of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and the main impurity is in the form of sand which may be to some extent eliminated by rough washing and screening through a coarse sieve. The limestone is proposed to be used by the Madras Cements, Limited, for a cement plant to be located in the region.

Due to the proximity of the sea and the low-lying nature of the ground a large portion of the deposit is water-logged during the monsoon period. Intensive pumping may be required to remove the water during mining, but on the other hand the soft and loose nature of the limestone is an advantageous factor. In view of the peculiar nature of the occurrence, suitable methods will have to be evolved for mining this limestone.

*Coral reefs in the Gulf of Manar:*—There are six or seven small islands off the coast between Tuticorin and Pamban, which are fringed by coral reefs. These reefs vary in width from a few yards to as much as 300 or 400 yards at places and consist of massive growths or “colonies” of living corals. It has been estimated that about two million tons of coral materials exist around all the island put together. And this material also happens to be one of the purest forms of calcium carbonate or limestone. However, the coral reef which grows on the bed of the shallow seas serves as a barrier against wave and current action. It will have to be considered whether large-scale mining of this protective barrier would adversely affect the islands or change the sea currents in the region. However, since the corals are growing organisms (hence not within the definition of a mineral) the reef material can be quarried in small quantities from a number of localities and by this way it may be possible to raise limited yield or “crops” of coral reef material (say about 2,00,000 tons every year) for use in chemical industries which need limestones of high purity.

*Clays:*—The Gondwana formations to the east of Sivganga carry layers of white clays which can find use in the manufacture of refractory bricks, insulators, tiles, etc. But these clay beds are generally of limited extent and vary in composition from place to place. However, there are a few localities in Sivaganga such as Nattarasankottai, Panangudi and Veytتيyur are worth investigation.

*Ochres:*—There is a small occurrence of red and yellow ochres in the high ground to the south-east of Sivaganga railway station. An attempt to utilise these ochres some years back appears to have been given up.

**Gypsum:**—Gypsum or hydrated calcium sulphate finds use essentially in the cement and fertiliser industries. It is also used for making plaster of paris. It is found in a few localities in the Mudukulattur taluk, as small nodules and concretions resembling Kankar in the black soil area. Mention may be made of the deposit near Avattandai, Kokkadi and some other villages near Sayalkudi. A few thousand tons of the gypsum have already been won from these areas for Messrs. India Cements Limited, and a portion is left behind. Gypsum is also known to occur in the black soil near Nalli in the Sattur taluk and near Nattam in the Mudukulattur taluk.

Small quantities of gypsum are also found in the bed of a small tank-like depression filled with sea water found about three miles south of Kilakkarai along the sea shore. The occurrence is of little economic value.

**Other minerals:**—Graphite has been found to occur in the biotite gneisses and quartz schists of Archaean age, near Poovandi and Tirumanjolai, about 15 miles west of Sivaganga. The graphite bearing zone is about 10 feet wide on an average and can be traced for about two miles. Graphite forms about 20 per cent of the rock. The deposit is being worked in a small way by a private party.

Kankar occurs as loose nodules in the black soil areas of the western taluks and is used locally for lime burning. In some areas of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks a hard layer of kankar (calc-tufa) has resulted by the weathering of the Archaean rocks under the black soil and this material can also be used for lime burning. Salts such as sodium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate and potassium chloride are found as thin encrustations or efflorescence on the soil. The saline efflorescences are formed by the capillary action of groundwater which dissolves the salts from the rocks underneath and deposits them at the surface. Such saline efflorescence is found in notable dimensions (1) along the banks of the Gundar to the south-east of Kariyapatti in the Aruppukkottai taluk (2) about 3 miles east of Sattur and to the north of the Vaippar river and (3) about two miles south-east of Sivakasi.

Garnet and Ilmenite sands are found along the sea shore in the northern portion of the Rameswaram island and near Tondi. However, in view of the poor market for the minerals and also their abundance in the nearby district of Kanyakumari, these occurrences are not of much significance.

**Marine Salt.**—The following are the important salt producing areas in the Ramanathapuram District.

**Vattanam.**—About 39 acres, produced 3,155 metric tonnes<sup>s</sup> of salt in 1962.

**Morekulam:**—856 tonnes from 77 acres were produced in 1962 here were 26 licenced manufacturers in 66 acres. In this area, 700 to 800 acres of land are available to be developed for cultivation of salt. There are also a few other smaller areas where little quantities of salt is produced.



**Mantapam:**—756.80 acres (S.N.959/1 and another patch 28.13 acres S.958) are available for salt development in poramboke lands near Alagankulam and 1827.67 acres of land on either side of the Vaigai river. The project envisages processing of about one lakh gallons of brine per day. It is proposed to recover salts such as magnesium chloride, gypsum salt, potassium chloride and bromine. The areas near Sayalkudi and areas near Valinokkam and around the back waters of Pambanar Taravainear Muthuragunathapuram, Mookaiyar and Vembar could also be investigated for the possibilities of establishing salt pans.

**Lignite:**—Coal was reported to occur at Managiri village about two miles west of Karaikkudi and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of Devakottai Rashtha R.S. It occurs at depths ranging from 280 feet to 400 feet. Heating value is 9,000 to 10,000 B.T.U. per lb.

The sample of lignite from the bore-hole at Agricultural Seed Farm, Karaikkudi, gave the following results when analysed.

|                                      |                  | B.H. 1.          | B.H. 3. |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| (1)                                  | (2)              | (3)              |         |
| Moisture .. ..                       | 15.82 per cent.  | 13.13 per cent.  |         |
| Volatile matter other than moisture. | 34.36 „          | 33.66 „          |         |
| Ash .. ..                            | 12.80 „          | 10.54 „          |         |
| Fixed Carbon ..                      | 37.02 „          | 42.67 „          |         |
| Calorific value ..                   | 9,233 B.T.U./lb. | 9,961 B.T.U./lb. |         |

**Power supply:**—A portion of the District is served by the Pykara and Papanasam Hydro-Electric Schemes. Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Aruppukkottai taluks and the areas bordering the Madurai district in Tiruppattur and Sivaganga taluks are served by the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Scheme. The rest of the District is served by the following four licensed corporations.

1. The West Ramanathapuram Electric Supply Corporation,
2. South Madras Electric Supply Corporation.
3. Kanadukathan Electric Supply Corporation, and
4. Karaikkudi Electric Supply Corporation.

As on 31st December 1963, there were 3,280.76 km. of High Tension distribution lines and 4,952.25 km. of Low Tension distribution lines in the District. There were 1,102 distribution transformers with a total capacity of 75,318 KVA.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF SUB-STATIONS IN THE DISTRICT WITH THEIR LOCATIONS AND TOTAL CAPACITY.

|                            | Number<br>of<br>transformers.<br>(1) | Total<br>capacity<br>in KVA.<br>(2) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Aravayal .. .. .        | 1                                    | 500                                 |
| 2. Aruppukkottai .. .. .   | 2                                    | 1,500                               |
| 3. A. Thekkur .. .. .      | 2                                    | 1,750                               |
| 4. G. N. Patti .. .. .     | 3                                    | 1,500                               |
| 5. Karaikkudi .. .. .      | 2                                    | 3,500                               |
| 6. Mantapam .. .. .        | 1                                    | 500                                 |
| 7. Paramagudi .. .. .      | 3                                    | 3,250                               |
| 8. Pudur .. .. .           | 3                                    | 5,500                               |
| 9. Rajapalayam .. .. .     | 3                                    | 22,500                              |
| 10. Ramanathapuram .. .. . | 2                                    | 1,000                               |
| 11. Sattur .. .. .         | 2                                    | 2,000                               |
| 12. Sivaganga .. .. .      | 3                                    | 9,000                               |
| 13. Sivakasi .. .. .       | 2                                    | 2,000                               |
| 14. Thulukkappatti .. .. . | 2                                    | 15,000                              |
| 15. Tiruvadanai .. .. .    | 1                                    | 250                                 |
| 16. Valavappatti .. .. .   | 3                                    | 4,500                               |
| 17. Virudhunagar .. .. .   | 3                                    | 15,000                              |
|                            | <hr/> 38                             | <hr/> 89,250                        |

As on December 31, 1963, 1,124 villages had been electrified in the District. The number of agricultural pumps working on electricity was 8,745. The number of large scale industrial consumers of electricity was 38 while that of small scale industrial consumers was 2,462.

**Large Scale Industries:**—A number of factors have hampered the quick industrial development in the Ramanathapuram District. The important factors are the lack of adequate water-supply, good climate, proper transport system, mineral resources and industrial raw materials. There is no perennial river in the District, and the District as a whole is generally dry. The forest resources are also very poor. In spite of all these draw-backs, a number of large scale industries have come up in the District. The important large scale industries includes (a) Textiles (b) Cement, (c) Printing, (d) Fire works, and (e) Steel rolling, etc.

**Textile Industry:**—Spinning and weaving of cotton has for a long time been an important industry in the District. When the Dutch were in possession of this region, they held the monopoly over the sea-borne trade of the southern districts. They employed the local weavers and the products were exported. The British who succeeded the Dutch to rule over the region also continued to export these goods. They also encouraged the indigenous producers by exempting them from paying the loom tax. About the middle of the 19th century there was competition of the imported machine made goods. The competition led to the decline of this industry. Though the spinning by charka was once again revived by about 1920-21, it steadily declined and had completely died in the District except in the Srivilliputtur Taluk where to a great extent it was kept alive by the activity of the Rajus of Rajapalayam.

There are a number of textile mills in the District. The following eleven mills are functioning for a fairly long period.

(1) Rajapalayam Mills Limited, Rajapalayam was established in 1938. The value of the fixed assets and working capital amounts to Rs. 90,00,000. This factory has got a capacity of 36,048 spindles. The factory produces approximately 45,00,000 lbs. of yarn a year. It offers employment to 1,200 persons.

(2) Sri Janakiram Spinning Mills Limited, Rajapalayam was established in 1953 and has got a fixed and working capital of about Rs. 18,50,000. The factory has an installed capacity of 6,984 spindles and it offers employment to 308 persons. The firm produces 13,00,000 lbs. of yarn annually.

(3) Sri Bharathi Cotton Mills, Rajapalayam was also established in 1953 and has a fixed working capital of Rs. 17,50,000. Its installed capacity is 5,920 spindles and it provided employment for about 181 persons. It produces approximately 7,00,000 lbs. of yarn annually.

(4) Sudarsanam Spinning Mills, Rajapalayam commenced production in 1958 and has a fixed and working capital of about Rs. 23,00,000. Its installed capacity is 6,000 spindles and it employs 179 persons. The factory produces 6 lakhs lbs. of yarn a year.

(5) Sri Karpagambal Mills, Solapuram (Post), Rajapalayam has capacity of 12,320 spindles and its total capital investment is to the tune of Rs. 32 lakhs. It offers employment to 400 people.

(6) Sri Shanmugar Mills, Rajapalayam which is under liquidation now under orders of the High Court has a capacity of 9090 spindles. The factory provides employment to 374 persons and it produces two lakhs lbs. of yarn annually.

(7) The Ramanathapuram Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Srivilliputtur has a capacity of 12,500 spindles and has invested Rs. 30 lakhs. It offers employment to about 200 people.

(8) Virudhunagar Textile Mills Limited, Sulakkarai, Virudhunagar has got a capital investment of Rs. 17 lakhs. It manufactures grey *gada* cloth and its capacity is 9,250 yards of cloth per day per shift. It gives employment to 161 persons.

(9) Jawahar Textile Mills, Limited, Chettinad has a paid up capital of Rs. 17 lakhs. It has a capacity of 12,480 spindles. It offers employment to 195 persons.

(10) Alagappa Cloth Mills, Rajapalayam, have an installed capacity of 9,000 spindles. The value of the fixed assets of the firm is about Rs. 15 lakhs. It offers employment to 200 people.

(11) Rukmani Mills, Silaiman has a capacity of 21,840 spindles. The value of the fixed assets of the firm is about Rs. 30 lakhs. The average annual production is 12 lakhs lbs. of yarn. 420 persons are employed by this firm.

A few textile mills have been established recently. They are :

1. Somasundaram Mills (Private) Limited, Somanathapuram.
2. Varadhalakshmi Mills, Rajakambiram.
3. Pioneer Spinners, Kamuthakudi.
4. Ayyappa Textiles, Ramanathapuram.
5. Kalceswara Mills, Kalaiyarkoil.
6. Nithyakalyani Textiles, Tiruvadanai.

Cotton which is the main raw material is available in the nearby taluks of Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Kovilpatti. No difficulty is felt in marketing the yarn in view of the fact that handloom is a premier cottage industry in Aruppukkottai, Srivilliputtur, Rajapalayam, Dalavaipuram and Paramagudi. Six more textile mills are proposed to be established in the District at Aruppukkottai, Sivakasi, Manamadurai, Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai.

*Surgical and Cotton Mills:*—There is one surgical and cotton mill called Ramaraju Surgical and Cotton Mills, Limited, at Rajapalayam. It was established in 1943. This mill has an investment of about Rs. 9 lakhs. It manufactures surgical cotton and bandage cloth. The capacity of the mill is 1,500 lbs. of surgical cotton per day of 16 hours. It provides employment to about 109 persons.

There is great demand for surgical cotton due to the opening of a large number of dispensaries and hospitals in the country in recent years. The *National Emergency* caused by the Chinese aggression has also warranted the stepping up of production of surgical cotton. Two entrepreneurs have proposed to establish another surgical cotton plant at Kamudi in the District and have applied to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, for approval. The entrepreneurs are confident of manufacturing surgical cotton with the available basic raw material, viz., waste cotton and with the second-hand textile machinery available in the market without resorting to any import.

*Cotton Ginning Factories:*—The indigenous method of ginning cotton in this District was by a hand gin and carding by a small bow in addition to teasing cotton by hand. For a long time a number of persons especially women were engaged in ginning cotton. As more and more scientific methods were introduced in the textile industry, ginning machines were introduced to gin the raw cotton. There are about 42 cotton ginning factories in the Ramanathapuram District employing about 2,271 persons.

#### CEMENT.

*The Madras Cements Limited, Thulukkappatti:*—This is one of the major factories in the District. It is the latest enterprise of the *Ramco group* of Rajapalayam in the District. This factory was

established in 1957 with a manufacturing capacity of 600 tons of Portland Cement per day. The first stage of the cement factory was put up with a capital issue of Rs. 50 lakhs, out of which the Government of Madras took up shares to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs. The factory went into production on March 1961, and the sales turnover amounted to Rs. 59,04,908 in September 1962. The second stage of the programme started with a further issue of Rs. 70 lakhs worth of shares, out of which the Government of Madras subscribed Rs. 35 lakhs from the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India have also substantially subscribed to this issue. The entire machinery for this second stage of 350/400 tons per day plant were supplied by Messrs. Skodas of Czechoslovakia. The second stage of production was begun in July 1963. About 400 workers find employment in the factory.

*Tamil Nad Cements—Alangulam:*—The “Tamil Nad Cements”, the State’s first public sector cement plant was inaugurated on June 14, 1970 at Alangulam near Rajapalayam. The Tamil Nad Cements is a unit of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. The estimated capital cost of the plant is Rs. 6.77 crores. The plant has a rated capacity of four lakhs tonnes per annum and the port land grey cement manufactured by this plant meets the stringent Indian Standards specifications. It has been marketed under the brand name ARASU. A major part of the Government’s requirements of cement will be met from the Alangulam factory and the rest from private manufacturers.

A total extent of about 2,200 acres has been acquired for the project, 175 acres for the Railway Siding, 300 acres for the Factory and Colony and 1,725 acres for the Quarries.

Except coal, the other raw materials are found in areas nearby. Limestone reserves lying within a radius of 16 km. around the factory site, to a depth of 20 metres are expected to total about 23 million tonnes which should last for over 30 years. The required clay is available in the quarry and factory areas and mining lease for laterite in Kalanivasal near Karaikkudi and for gypsum in Trunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirapalli and Coimbatore districts has been applied for. Laterite is being mined at Kalanivasal on temporary permits. Coal is being procured from Singareni, Madhya Pradesh, and Bengal. Gunny bags are being procured from Bengal.

The factory’s marketing zone is the entire Tamil Nadu and Kerala and certain areas of Mysore and Andhra.

*Sri Krishna Lime Works, Poovandi:*—Lime in abundant quantity is available in Poovandi area around Sunnambur. The lime that is available here is of 80 per cent purity. The extent of its

availability has been estimated at 7.5 lakhs tons. This has been considered to be best suited for the manufacture of chemical and building lime.

The Chemical Lime proposed to be manufactured is used,

(i) for clarification of cane juice in sugar and jaggery manufacture.

(ii) as a base for bleaching powder and certain other insecticides.

(iii) in the manufacture of mosaic tiles, lime pozzolana and-building lime.

(iv) in the manufacture of sand lime brick and as soil neutraliser.

The capacity of the plant proposed will be of 10 to 20 tons capacity per day.

The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 36,000. A State Aid loan of Rs. 15,000 has been sanctioned. Apart from helping the promoter in getting the required finance the Departmental Unit at Madurai has fabricated and supplied equipments like hearth, platform, ladder etc. The Unit is expected to go into production soon.

*The Alagankulam Site for Bitterns, Limited:*—About a year back (1963) the Government of Madras, with a view to exploring the possibilities of setting-up a Soda Ash Plant in some of the coastal areas, requisitioned the services of a few Japanese experts on the subject. The Japanese team accompanied by the Officials of the Department of Industries and Commerce visited a number of places like Kovalam in the Chingleput District, Vedharanyam in the Thanjavur District, Alankulam in the Ramanathapuram District and Tuticorin in the Tirunelveli district.

This visit by the Japanese Experts evoked interest among some of the leading persons of Ramanathapuram. The subsequent impetus given by the Industries Divisional Follow up Committee made them prepare a project report based on the scheme given by the Directorate of Industries and Commerce.

The project proposed by Messrs. Bitterns, Limited, envisaging the processing of about 1 lakh gallons of Bitterns per day for the recovery of marine chemicals such as magnesium chloride, epsom salt, potassium chloride, kieserite and bromine was examined by the Joint Director (Chemical Engineering) and found to be technically feasible and also considered as an economic proposition.

“Bitterns” is the mother liquor left after the removal of crystalline Sodium Chloride. At present these “Bitterns” are simply driven to sea or otherwise disposed off as waste. It has been estimated that about 380 million gallons of Bitterns are produced annually in India. This is based on the annual production of 1.7 million tons of Common Salt from the sea water.

As East Ramanathapuram has a long coast line there will not be any difficulty in developing salt pans and obtaining the necessary sea bitterns for the proposed project. A site measuring 1,500 acres at Alagankulam was suggested and samples were also taken and tested. As regards the machinery required for the plant most of the equipment can be designed and fabricated indigenously and erected except the bromine recovery unit. This would consist of bromine towers and tantalum condensers, purifiers and receivers which will have to be imported from Germany and the States. The power and fresh water requirements are about 3,000 K.W.H. and 50,000 gallons per day. The firm has proposed to adopt the process of fractional crystallisation with refrigeration as this is considered to be the best for economic recovery of all the by-products from Bitterns. The by-products find their use in various industries such as pharmaceutical industry, tanning and dyeing, paper, textiles, fertilizers, potassium chlorate, etc.

*Fire-Works Industry:*—The fire-works industry in the district is one of the flourishing industries, the origin of which goes back to the 19th century. In the beginning of the 19th century attempts were made to create colour flame by using salt of various metals. The use of potassium chlorate, nitrates of barium, strontium and other carbonates with salt resulted in the manufacture of fire-works which could display a variety of effects and colours. When the metal magnesium was used as another ingredient, more interesting fire-works such as those which could burn with a greenish light were manufactured. But the perfection in the industry was achieved by the introduction of aluminium as another ingredient. Since then all the brilliant items of fire-work displays have been produced in the factories in the district.

The fire-works industry on a large scale dates back from the beginning of the present century. To begin with a few persons carried on the manufacture of fire-works in private houses. The political movements in the country led to several anarchist activities and the Government promulgated ordinances regulating the manufacture and use of explosive substances under the Arms Act and Explosives Substance Act. Though it gave a blow to the rising industry at the initial stages later the industry developed in great dimensions and Sivakasi became an important centre of this industry.

The modern fire-works factories are generally located in rural parts with a view to safeguarding dwelling houses, railways, highways and other buildings. Each fire-work factory is usually made up of several small buildings each built with light materials and separated from each other by a specified distance according to regulations. The law also restricts the quantity of chemicals to be used or kept in each of the factories and the number of persons to be employed in them. The minimum age of the employees is also fixed at 16. Carrying of intoxicants acids, oils, matches or fire into the factory is prohibited. The tools used are to be of soft metals such

as brass, copper, aluminium or wood. These regulations are being enforced in order to minimise the effects of explosions that may occur in the factories.

Till recently various items of fire-works and crackers were imported from foreign countries like Britain, Germany and China. Some enthusiastic industrialists in Madras took keen interest in the future possibilities of the fire-work industry in the State and started the manufacture of fire-works on a small scale. The availability of cheap labour, the abundance of salt petre and the ready-market in the State encouraged these pioneers to devote more attention to this industry. Gradually this industry has been stabilised in places like Sivakasi.

The fire-works industry in and around Sivakasi finds employment for about 20,000 persons. In fact, Sivakasi is the most important centre on which the whole country depends for the supply of fire-works. The factories at Sivakasi function throughout the year and turn out daily on an average 7 or 8 tonnes of fire-works. The annual turnover of business from the Sivakasi Centre is estimated to exceed Rs. 1½ crores. Of the annual turnover, about 20 per cent goes to labour, 10 per cent towards freight and 60 per cent towards the chemicals, packaging and paper industry. At present these factories, besides manufacturing fire-works, supply blasting powder to various projects where dams and other major works are being constructed.

The fire-works manufactured in the District are distributed to different parts of the country. A decade back they were exported to places overseas such as Aden, Ceylon and Iran. The export trade could not, however, be continued due to heavy local demand in the country. The manufacturers have, however, now increased production and are actively exploring possible avenues of export.

Standard Fire Works of Sivakasi are engaged in the manufacture of crackers, etc., and they have capital totalling Rs. 14 lakhs with an annual turnover of Rs. 30 lakhs. Nearly 500 persons are employed by this firm.

National Fire Works, Sivakasi, are also engaged in the manufacture of crackers and they have capital worth about Rs. 15 lakhs, with an annual turnover of Rs. 30 lakhs a year. Nearly 500 people have been employed by this firm.

As regards raw materials required for fire-works, the imported materials like, pyrotechnic aluminium powder, tissue paper, etc., are procured under Actual Users' Licence by imports. Materials like salt petre, country twine and waste cloth are available locally. No difficulty is experienced in marketing as there is a good demand.

*Litho Printing*:—Printing industry is another important industry in the District. This industry was first introduced in the year 1922 at Sivakasi to supply labels required for the fire-works manufactured



A small printing press called "The Nadar Press, Limited," was started. By 1930 there was considerable development in the match industry in the District and the dependence of the match industry on the press industry for supplying the trade mark match labels and fire-works labels gave an impetus to the printing industry in the District. Moreover, the exorbitant delay in getting these labels from Bombay where they were then printed, led to the necessity of introducing the litho printing in the District. Thus in 1930 litho printing was introduced in the District as a subsidiary industry. At first flat bed litho machines were introduced and later in 1949 automatic fast rotary offset machines were supplemented. The printing industry soon developed by leaps and bounds and became a major industry in the District. The printing industry at Sivakasi has earned a good reputation all over India and meets the demands of several industries by printing pictures, posters, showcards, colour labels, calendars, etc.

The following are the important litho presses in the District :—

*Litho Press:*—The Orient Litho Press, Sivakasi, is engaged in the printing of labels, posters, etc. The total capital investment is Rs. 5 lakhs. The firm provides employment to 183 persons. The annual turnover of the firm is nearly Rs. 25 lakhs.

Messrs. Coronation Litho Press, Sivakasi, is engaged in the printing of labels, posters, etc., and their annual turnover is to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs a year. The fixed assets and working capital of the press is Rs. 12 lakhs. It provides employment to 200 persons.

Messrs. National Litho Press, Sivakasi, is engaged in printing of labels, posters, etc. the total investment of the firm is approximately Rs. 15 lakhs. It provides employment for 262 persons. The raw materials required for printing industry are various types of printing paper and printing ink. These are available from indigenous sources, except pigments which is being allowed to be imported under Actual Users' Licence.

The press owners at Sivakasi have an association called the Sivakasi Master Printers' Association. It is affiliated to the All India Federation of Master Printers.

Besides the above litho presses at Sivakasi, there are about 68 printing presses spread over the District, employing in all about 1,812 persons.

*Chip Board Industry:*—A licence for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of chip boards has been granted. It will have the capacity to manufacture 1,700 tons of boards per annum. The capital outlay will be about Rs. 15 lakhs. The party has purchased the necessary land for the factory and has placed orders for the machinery. The chief raw materials required are various types of forest wood and glue. The required quantity

of wood is proposed to be procured from the adjoining forests of Rajapalayam and Tenkasi. Animal Glue is available from leading suppliers like Imperial Chemical Industries.

Chip Boards are cheap substitutes for wooden planks and there is a ready market for the products.

*Steel Rolling Mills:*—The Virudhunagar Steel Rolling Mills, Limited, at Virudhunagar, has been established recently by private entrepreneurs with a paid-up capital of Rs. 7,51,700. The cost of machinery and buildings of the Mills is about 8 lakhs. The Mills went into production in February 1963. The production capacity of the Mills at present is 10 tons per day per shift of 8 hours. The unit employs about 50 persons.

The items of manufacture of the Mills are 'VSRM' sledge Hammers, Crowbars, Faggot Steel bars, rods, etc. The raw materials required by the Mills are billets, defective billets, defective slabs, defective blooms and other varieties of re-rollable scraps. The production capacity of the Mills is 10 tons per day per shift of 8 hours. The Mills have further plans to increase the production capacity.

#### SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES.

*Public Sector:*—The details of the Government Industrial units started during the First and Second Five-Year Plans are given below :

##### (1) GENERAL PURPOSE ENGINEERING WORKSHOP, RAJAPALAYAM.

The workshop with a total outlay of 6.87 lakhs has been functioning since 1958. The following are the products chiefly manufactured in this Unit ; (a) special furniture required for hospitals, (b) cupboards, (c) steel racks and (d) agricultural implements and utility furniture. The value of annual production is nearly Rs. 4.5 lakhs. The workshop is under the control of a gazetted superintendent. The workshop imparts training to 10 students in the technique of the manufacture of the above products. Under the Third Plan, proposals for expanding the workshop at an outlay of Rs. 1.5 lakhs is under consideration.

##### GOVERNMENT TOOL ROOM SERVICING SHOP, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SULAKKARAI, VIRUDHUNAGAR.

Under the Second Five-Year Plan, a scheme was sanctioned for a Tool Room Servicing shop in the Industrial Estate, Virudhunagar involving a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 4,84,650 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 2,90,000 to assist the private industries by supplying proper dies, punches, tools, jigs and fixtures etc., as small private units cannot afford to have a proper tool room of their own with

costly machines. This unit has been specially located in the Industrial Estate, Virudhunagar, to assist the private industrialists who have taken up units in the Estate and also to assist other industrialists in and around the area.

Twenty-four costly and internationally known precision machines to the value of Rs. 3,20,884 have been purchased and installed in this unit. This unit started functioning from November, 1961 and regular production was commenced from January, 1962. This unit is gradually gaining momentum. During the current year, the unit has been rendering servicing facilities to more than eighty parties. Bulk orders are also being received from the Madras State Electricity Board, Integral Coach Factory, Perambur and from other big private firms. The unit is also manufacturing small tools like screw drivers, T. squares, centre punches, scribes etc., required by the various industrial training institutes in the State.

#### THE GENERAL PURPOSE ENGINEERING WORKSHOP, MUDUKULATTUR.

In March 1960, the Government sanctioned the establishment of one General Purpose Engineering Workshop at Kadaladi. Subsequently, the Government ordered that the workshop may be located at Mudukulattur instead of at Kadaladi. The scheme involves a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,53,352 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 46,648. Provision has also been made under the scheme to impart training for 30 candidates. The Government have also sanctioned an additional expenditure of Rs. 3,000 towards the cost of land for the workshop. A site measuring 1.61 acres at Keelamudukulattur has been selected by the Director of Industries and Commerce, for the location of the workshop and further action has been pursued for its acquisition. Out of the provision of Rs. 75,852 made for the purchase of machineries, machineries to the tune of Rs. 37,000 have been purchased.

#### WORK CENTRE FOR SEMI- EDUCATED YOUTHS, KAMUDI:

There are a large number of young men in rural areas who have received the benefits of education upto the middle school level but had not the opportunity of completing their secondary education. This Rural Work Centre, Kamudi seeks to give training to such youths in Blacksmithy and Carpentry.

The Unit was started in December, 1961 and is in charge of a Superintendent. As per the original scheme the trainees are to be given training in the respective trades but later on this scheme has been ordered as a Training-cum-Production Scheme. According to the original scheme 40 trainees were to be trained at a time. But due to inadequacy of space in the workshop the present strength

is 30. Proposals for additional building have been submitted and the strength will be raised to 40 when the building is ready. The trainees are paid at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per working day.

This is the only Departmental Production Centre in blacksmithy and carpentry in the District and as such there is much scope for its development. The production of the Centre during 1963-64 amounted to the value of Rs. 60,642.37 in the carpentry side and Rs. 28,243.11 in the blacksmithy side.

*Industrial Estate, Virudhunagar:*—In the District, an Industrial Estate has been established at Sulakkarai near Virudhunagar. Though the scheme envisaged the construction of 44 sheds, 15 sheds have been completed, to start with. All these fifteen factory sheds have been completely occupied by the industrialists. There are three types of factory buildings available here "A", "B" and "C" and out of the fifteen sheds there are 3 "A" units 5 "B" units and 7 "C" units. The industrialists are charged a subsidised rent calculated at the rate of 6 paise per square foot of covered area in the Industrial Estate, at Sulakkarai and the following is the rent charged for the various types of buildings:—

|     |         |             |
|-----|---------|-------------|
| 'A' | Rs. 260 | per mensem. |
| 'B' | Rs. 185 | "           |
| 'C' | Rs. 110 | "           |

Besides housing factories, the industrial estate provides such common amenities as canteen, rest shed for workers, shops, first-aid post, recreation facilities, open spaces for lawns and avenues and garages for parking lorries, etc.

It is proposed to add other facilities required by the industrialists viz. facility for banking, post office, godowns, a library with reading room, etc.

Under the Government of India subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, 40 labour tenements have been constructed for the use of workers employed in the various private units which have taken factory space on rent. The rent charged is only Rs. 11 per mensem and the tenements are provided with all modern facilities like protected water-supply, flushout latrines etc.

The following are the principal industries now carried on in the 15 Units of the Estate :—

Tin containers and tin printing, crown corks, wood and machine screw manufactures, wire nails, sheet tacks, sheet metal products, gem clips and paper pins, polythene bags, stainless steel products and tubular furniture.

There is a growing demand for the construction of more number of factory units in the estate at Sulakkarai. The Officers of the Industries Department stationed there, keep the units in the procurement

of raw material both from the indigenous and imported sources. The Department purchases power in bulk and supplies to the industrialists in the Estate at nominal rates.

*Industrial Estate Karaikkudi:*—On account of the growing demand, the Government have sanctioned the establishment of an industrial estate at Karaikkudi at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. A large tract of poramboke land extending about 202 acres in Amaravathiputhur village near Karaikkudi has been transferred to the Industries Department and construction work has commenced. To start with, it is proposed to construct 15 factory sheds. Already applications are pouring in for factory space and allotment will be made after the construction of buildings has reached a final stage. Provision has been made in the Estate for all modern amenities.

*Co-operative Industrial Estate, Sivakasi:*—About 20 entrepreneurs of Sivakasi have come forward to form a Co-operative Industrial Estate at Sivakasi. The Society has been registered and necessary funds have been sanctioned by the Government. The members have contributed nearly Rs. 1.6 lakhs as their share.

About 60 acres of land adjoining to the reserve police grounds have been selected by the Director of Industries and Commerce for locating the Estate. After taking over the land, the factory buildings will be constructed.

*Industrial Estate at Sivaganga:*—Under the Third Five Year Plan a scheme for setting up an Industrial Estate at Sivaganga has also been sanctioned in 1963 at a cost of Rs. 7.90 lakhs. Land acquisition work for the Industrial Estate is under progress.

*Brick Unit, Paramagudi:*—The scheme for the establishment of a brick unit at Paramagudi was originally sanctioned as an Industrial Co-operative Society under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes. Later sanction was accorded to run the brick kiln as a Departmental Unit. The cost of the Scheme is Rs. 1,14,000.

The construction of brick kiln, drying sheds and office-cum-stores have been completed. Orders were placed with the work-centre for semi-educated youths, Kamudi, for the manufacture of chimney and it has also been received and erected.

The production of ground mould bricks was started in 1963. The cutting of table mould bricks was commenced during the last week of August, 1963. The chimney has been erected during the month of January, 1964. The Unit commenced the kiln firing in February, 1964. The capacity of the kiln is about 3 lakhs bricks per month. The bricks produced here is of good quality. There is very good demand for these bricks in the East Ramanathapuram area.

### OTHER SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES UNITS IN THE DISTRICT:—

The appendix at the end of the chapter shows the number of units that existed at the end of 1959 in respect of each industry furnished therein, with details of capital invested, etc. But among the existing newly developed industries in the recent past, the more important ones that need particular reference are (a) light engineering, (b) tin products, (c) fountain pen nibs, (d) stainless steel utensils and (e) match and fire works. Out of the above, the Match and Fire Works Industry play a most important role in the Industrial development of the District and more particularly in and around Sivakasi Town, Sattur and Elayirampennai near Sattur.

As regards light engineering, there are now six foundaries in the District in the private sector, three at Virudhunagar, two at Rajapalayam and one at Tiruthangal and they are engaged in producing reciprocating pumpsets, pulleys, cast iron weights, oil mill spares, flour and textile mill spares, hand pumps and small lathes, match machines, paper cutting machines, reeling machines, punching machines, and tobacco cutting machines. The raw materials required for these industries are supplied by the department on permits. These industries are frequently visited by the Officers of the State and Central Industries Departments and all possible aid is rendered.

As regards tin products, a variety of tin products like containers, lamps and toys are produced by the Units at Virudhunagar. The Industry is fast developing and one Unit at the industrial estate at Sulakkarai has taken to tin printing also, which was hitherto done in Madras. The chief problem of this industry is the scarcity of raw materials, viz., tin sheets and cuttings which are generally in short supply. The industry is not able to reach its full capacity of production due to the scarcity of raw material, although there is a good demand for its products.

The fountain pen nib industry has also slowly developed into a small scale industry in Sattur. The problem confronting the industry is that of marketing its products.

Though there are a number of persons willing to start new stainless steel units on account of the increasing demand for stainless steel utensils, the scarcity of raw materials is a bottleneck towards the development.

*Match Industry:*—Safety match being an important commodity in daily domestic use, had been till 1920 imported from foreign countries like Sweden, Japan and Czechoslovakia. In 1923 a semi-mechanised factory was started at Sivakasi on a small scale. Side by side several factories were started in and around Sivakasi which

produced hand-made matches thus giving employment for thousands of men and women. In the initial stages the industry met with difficulties as the raw materials like splints and veneers had been imported from Japan. Later on, indigenous resources were made use of for the industry. Soft wood trees like Pollai, Palai, Matti, and Ambalam found in Kerala and Mysore State were made use of. Splints and veneers were produced in Kerala and then the import of these from Japan was stopped. Similarly, the import of other primary requisites like paper, chemicals, etc., had been stopped, as these materials are now being manufactured within the country.

In 1932, a Swedish concern, WIMCO, who had been monopolising world supplies in matches, established mechanised units of match industry in major cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and commenced large scale production with the aid of machineries and raw materials imported from their own factories abroad. The match industries of Sivakasi and surroundings, however, withstood the competition, notwithstanding the initial loss they had to sustain as a result. Fortunately, the competition was short-lived. With the advent of WIMCO's factories, the import of matches into India was completely banned. But it left its repercussions on the country's economy. The Central Revenues were affected by the short-fall in the customs receipts. So the Government of India brought matches within the ambit of the Excise Duty in order to make good the loss in income. This was in 1934, when the Government evolved the following scheme of classification of the match industries for purposes of levy of Excise duties :—

Class C—Factories producing not more than 100 grosses per day.

Class B—Those with an annual production capacity of not more than five lakhs grosses and

Class A—Mechanical units producing more than five lakhs grosses per year.

With a view, however, to encourage the Cottage Sector, the Government introduced a system of rebate. A rebate of two annas per gross in the case of B class factories and four annas in respect of C class factories was announced. This concession enabled enormous growth in the match industries, especially conversion of C into B class factories. The boom period continued upto October 1960, when the Government embarked upon a new excise policy. This scheme entailed a wide disparity in the excise levy as between B and C, the difference being as much as 75 paise per gross. Not only that, even C class factories were subjected to excise levy in three slabs. This resulted in unhealthy competition even among C Class factories.

The present rates of excise duty for the three classes are given below :—

|  | Rate per gross. | RS. P. |
|--|-----------------|--------|
| <b>A. Class:—</b>  |                 |        |
| Factories whose annual production exceeds 4,000 million sticks :—  |                 |        |
| 1. On the first 400 million sticks .. .. .   | 4               | 50     |
| 2. On the balance .. .. .  | 4               | 60     |
| <b>B. Class:—</b>  |                 |        |
| Factories whose annual production exceeds 500 million sticks but does not exceed 4,000 millions sticks:— |                 |        |
| 1. For the first 500 million sticks .. .. .  | 4               | 50     |
| 2. On the balance up to 3500 million sticks .. .. .  | 4               | 50     |
| <b>C. Class:—</b>  |                 |        |
| Factories whose annual production exceeds 50 million sticks but does not exceed 500 million sticks:—     |                 |        |
| 1. On the first 100 million sticks .. .. .   | 3               | 75     |
| 2. The next 150 million sticks .. .. .   | 4               | 10     |
| 3. On the balance 250 million sticks .. .. .   | 4               | 50     |

The “A” class factories are enjoying a rebate on the duty for the first 4,000 million sticks which they were not enjoying before. Thus graded protection has been given to Cottage and Small Scale Match Factories by Government against the A class (Large Scale Mechanised Units) factories. The idea behind the policy is to protect an industry which provides employment to a larger number of people.

The slab system in its actual working has given rise to the establishment of a number of small cottage type match factories. This has also led to dispersal of units in the rural areas.

West Ramanathapuram Division, in particular, has a number of cottage type match factories and in order to prevent an unhealthy competition, among the smaller units, a Co-operative Society has been formed consisting of these smaller units for which the State Government has also granted liberal financial aid.

**Rice Mills:—**There are about 60 rice mills in the District, giving employment to about 645 persons. The average investment amount in each mill is about Rs. 10,000 apart from repairs and renewals. The paddy required for these rice mills is collected from all over the District.

**Development of the Small Scale Industries:—**Consistent with the developmental activities directly undertaken by the Department in setting up of new units, the existing units under State Aid to Industries Act have been liberalised permitting the District Officers to



sanction loans upto Rs. 5,000 on personal sureties repayable in easy instalments and charging reduced rates of interest. This naturally gave a fillip to the industrial development, since many of the artisan and small entrepreneurs who had not got the necessary finances were able to start industries of their own.

The Department of Industries and Commerce also recommends the applications for the issue of Essentiality Certificates to industrialists, for the import of raw materials, machinery, etc., required for Small Scale Industries. Besides, controlled commodities like cement, iron and steel (sheets, both galvanised, plain and corrugated) and wires are supplied only on the recommendations of the Department. In respect of coal and coak which are also in short supply the Department issues cards authorising the dealer to issue a specified quantity to the consumer. The applications of Small Scale Industrial Units which are desirous of purchasing machineries on instalment basis are also recommended by the Department. The Department also encourages the formation of industrial co-operatives.

*Cottage Industries:*—For a long time the Ramanathapuram district has been the land of cottage industries. These industries have been providing employment to a large number of people. Hand spinning, handloom weaving, mat weaving, metal vessels making, etc., are some of the cottage industries that thrive in the District.

*Hand Spinning:*—Hand spinning closely connected with handloom weaving has been in existence in the District from time immemorial. But the activity of the spinning wheels, was revived about 1920-21 but again after some time it began to decline and had completely died down in the District except in the Srivilliputtur Taluk.

About 1928, Rajapalayam, in the Srivilliputtur Taluk was the important centre of organisation for *khaddar* trade and there were several merchants having their depots for purchasing yarn and for selling *khaddar*. The annual output of the cloth at that time was valued at Rs. 50,000. The *khaddar* products were exported to the Northern Circars, parts of Madura, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirapalli districts. A large quantity was consumed by the local people of the district. The spinning of the yarn was done by the Kamma and other caste women who were very well trained in spinning and they produced fine yarns of 30 and 40 counts. They also did ginning by a hand gin and carding by a small bow in addition to teasing by hand. The yarn so spun was standardized to a length of 840 yards to a hank. For every hank a fixed rate of one anna was paid, which acted as an incentive to spin a finer yarn, as a given weight of cotton when spun into finer counts brought more income than when it was spun into coarser counts. Thus when the count was coarser the number of hanks produced in a pound of cotton became less leading to a lower wage earning. About 1928, there were about 1,194 spinning wheels

in operation in Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Pudupatti, Maharajapuram, Meenakshipuram, Komandipuram and Sattur in the Srivilliputtur Taluk. The weavers purchased the yarn from the depots at the rate of 12 hanks per rupee and sold the cloth to the same depot at the rate of 14 annas per yard of 53 inches wide. Thus the depot owners made a profit of 6 pies per yard. The cost of handspun yarn was higher than the mill yarn. Moreover, the charges for weaving, warping and sizing were also higher mainly because of the difficulty involved in weaving and warping fibres of yarn of comparatively less strength and uniformity. The looms that were engaged in khaddar weaving had constant work throughout the year. In case of a rise in the price of yarn or in case when the demand for the varieties of clothes exported by them became low, they used to cut down the usual wages and the volume of work given to them. The hand woven clothes were purchased by the *khaddar* organisations which sold the goods in different markets.

At present, hand spinning often serves as a subsidiary industry during the period of agricultural inactivity which extended for two to three months. The five year plans gave a fillip to the weaving of *khaddar* and by the end of the First Five-Year Plan, the production of *khaddar* spread all over the western portion of the district. During the Second Five-Year Plan it spread to the eastern portion of the district, especially to the centres like Mudukulattur, Kamudi, Manamadurai, Kalaiyarkoil, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai, Kallal, Singampunari, etc. Since then the Ambar Charka is widely used in these centres. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan about 21,700 persons were engaged in spinning, while 350 persons were engaged in weaving *khaddar* cloth in the district.

For the promotion of the *khadi* industry in the district there is a District Khadi Office at Paramagudi under the control of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. Srivilliputtur and Paramagudi are the two important production centres for *khadi* work in the district. Besides these two main production centres, there are 9 sub-centres in the district at the following places :—Rajapalayam, Watrap, Rengappanaickenpatti, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Sayalkudi, Kamudi, Tiruvadanai and Kundrakudi. There are *khadi* sales depots in the district at the following eleven places :—

Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Virudhunagar, Aruppukkottai, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai, Devakottai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Paramagudi. As on August 1963 there were 3,459 spinners, as follows :—

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Kisan.</i> | <i>Ambar.</i> |
| 3,084         | 375           |

The number of *khadi* looms as on August 1963 was 164. The total yarn production in the district during 1962-63 was as follows :—

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Kisan.</i>  | <i>Ambar.</i>  |
| 852,027 hanks. | 199,518 hanks. |

The production of *Khadi* during the same period amounted to about 132,700 metres, valued at Rs. 3,76,791. During the same period *Khadi* valued at about Rs. 8,77,376 was sold. The wages paid to *Khadi* spinners was about Rs. 1,52,400 and to *Khadi* weavers about Rs. 94,388 during the same period.

**Handloom Weaving:**—Handloom weaving is, next to agriculture, the main stay of the people of the district. Paramagudi, Aruppukkottai, Mandalamanickam, Srivilliputtur and other places are the important centres of this cottage industry. The handloom cloths are being manufactured in this district for a long time. In about 1928, several varieties of the cloths were manufactured in the district, the important of them being (1) whites from 20s to 24s mainly manufactured in Srivilliputtur, Chatrapatti and Aruppukkottai, (2) finer white fabrics from 40s to 100s manufactured at Emeneswaram, (3) ordinary cheap coloured saris from 20s to 30s manufactured at Aruppukkottai, Rajapalayam, Mandalamanickam and Karaikkudi, (4) Silk fabrics from pure silk and silk mixed with cotton at Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram and (5) lungis at Aruppukkottai. During this time, there were about 17,315 looms in this District. Of these about 13,000 looms were fitted with fly shuttle slay. At Paramagudi alone the looms were mostly of ordinary type without the fly shuttle slay. It was because at Paramagudi the weaving of silk fabrics of costlier variety with borders of silk and lace was alone undertaken. The fly shuttle slay was invariably used in all other centres where white and cheaper variety of coloured sarees were manufactured. The required yarn for weaving was obtained from the Madurai and Papanasam Mills and the dyed yarn from Madurai town where dyeing was carried on on a large scale.

Sizing was carried on in streets by the weavers and a warp was 100 to 120 yards in length. Generally the weavers took about 20 days for weaving a warp of 120 yards. The weavers were generally paid very low wages. For weaving a warp of 120 yards the weaver was paid about Rs. 7. The weaver was paid Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-4-0 for sizing which included the cost of sizing materials. The wages also varied according to the designs used in weaving. About Rs. 5 was paid for warping, sizing, winding, etc. In Aruppukkottai there were about 1,000 looms manufacturing lungis.

Aruppukkottai, Paramagudi, Rajapalayam and Srivilliputtur were important weaving centres in the District. Silk weaving was carried on only at Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi, the latter commanding the largest manufacture. For the purpose of silk weaving, China Silk was used which was obtained from Bombay. The China Silk was reeled and twisted and then bleached and dyed at Paramagudi. All kinds of dyeing were done. Chemical dye were mostly in use. But, *Kapila*, *Kiramji* and lac were also used

for dyeing. Lac was used for dyeing with red colour. The handloom products of Paramagudi were exported to various places in the then Madras Presidency, while a bulk of this stock was consumed in the District itself.

Handloom weaving continues to be an important cottage industry in the District. Special care is being taken to develop this industry through the Five-Year Plans. At the end of the First Five Year Plan there were about 50 Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Societies in the District. By this time, there were in all about 10,332 looms in the District. The Government of Madras, during the First Plan period, have given Rs. 3,34,000 to the Societies as loans and a rebate worth Rs. 84 lakhs in the sale of the products. The weavers also received subsidies for purchasing looms and other essential implements. At present 90 weavers' Co-operative societies are functioning in the District with a total membership of 24,573 of about 40,816 looms in the District. Nearly 22,492 looms have been brought within the co-operative fold. During the year 1963, about 8,284,214 metres of handloom cloth valued at Rs. 85,59,685 were produced by the Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

There are also four dyeing centres located at Paramagudi, Karaikkudi and Emaneswaram. One of the dyeing centres at Paramagudi and the centre at Karaikkudi have the capacity of dyeing 5 bales of handlooms on an average per month.

The Co-operative Societies at Paramagudi and Emaneswaram produce artificial silk cloths of No. 100 and No. 80 qualities. The silk cloth produced at these centres finds very good market in places like Bombay, Poona, Nagpur and Delhi.

*Mat weaving*:—Mat weaving is also a popular cottage industry in the Ramanathapuram District. This industry is mainly concentrated in the vicinity of Ilayankudi. Mats are made of *korai* grass. Women are generally employed in this industry and persons connected with the industry are mostly Muslim repatriates from Burma and Malaya.

The *Korai* is cut when it is green and split into fibres after removing the pith and then dried. It shrinks in size while drying and assumes a glossy appearance. The reeds are tied in small bundles and dried in the sun for about a month, when they lose their greenish tint and assume a yellowish colour. They are soaked for a week in the running water in small quantities with weights placed on them so that they may not be washed away by the stream. Every part of the reed is then properly cleaned after which they are split into finer strands depending on the quality of the mat to be manufactured. The warp used for the manufacture of mats is generally aloe fibre.

The raw material required for the industry is generally obtained from Karur, Dindigul and Madurai.

A Mat Weavers' Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society is functioning in the District at Abiramam since May 1961. The society has 48 members of whom 25 are worker-members, and most of them are ladies. The paid-up capital of the Society is Rs. 2,365. The Government have contributed Rs. 2,000 towards working capital loan, Rs. 2,000 towards share capital loan and Rs. 1,500 towards reserve fund subsidy. The monthly average production of the Society is about Rs. 500. The society sells most of the goods produced in local markets.

#### COTTAGE INDUSTRIES CONNECTED WITH PALMYRAS.

Articles made of palmyra leaves such as baskets, windows, boxes, mats, etc., are manufactured largely in the taluks of Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Srivilliputtur. Fancy articles which attract the attention of the pilgrims such as boxes, baskets, etc. with coloured leaf are manufactured on a large scale in pilgrim centres like Tiruppallani, Rameswaram, Devipatnam and Srivilliputtur. These articles find a ready sale with the pilgrims who visit these places. The general process of using palmyra leaves is to cut the shoots and to dry them. Then they are made into small strips suitable for weaving after removing the ribs. In some places like Ramanathapuram and Srivilliputtur, mats are woven in large numbers, which are largely used for packing purposes.

On 28th January 1957 a training-cum-service centre for palmyra leaf products was started at Chittrakottai by the Government with a view to train artisans in the improved methods of manufacturing and to introduce new and attractive designs. About 20 trainees on a stipend of Rs. 25 per month were trained in this centre till September 1957, after which the centre was converted into an Industrial Co-operative society. This society has now taken up production on a commercial scale. Raw materials and improved tools are being distributed free of cost by this Society to those who are engaged in this industry.

There was also another training-cum-production centre for the manufacturing of cots and other items of furniture from palmyra stem strips at Manamadurai. It was started on 9th April 1957 with 22 trainees. The centre did not continue to function after 1958, because of the cut in the plan expenditure. However, arrangements are being made to organize the trainees into an industrial co-operative society for taking up production on commercial lines.

**Metal Industry.**—Manufacture of articles from metals especially from copper, brass and aluminium intended for domestic use, is carried on in important centres in the District. Srivilliputtur and Karaikkudi are two important places where bronze *Kujahs* are manufactured. In order to give an impetus to this cottage industry, co-operative societies have been created in the District. These societies arrange for the systematic manufacture and sale of the finished goods. They also give loans and subsidies to persons engaged in this industry.

There is a Brassware Unit at Nattarasankottai with total asset of Rs. 23,500. The Unit employs about 10 persons and produce Chettinad type brass vessels worth Rs. 42,000 per year.

The four industrial metal workers' co-operative societies are located at Srivilliputtur, Devakottai, Virudhunagar and Pallathur.

The Srivilliputtur Metal Workers' Cottage Industrial Co-operative Society Limited has 113 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 6,812 and total assets of Rs. 25,000. The value of the articles manufactured in this society was about Rs. 35,993 during 1962-63.

The Devakottai Metal Workers' Co-operative Industrial Society has 70 members out of which 30 persons get employment daily in the Society. On an average a worker gets Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.00 per day. *Kudams, Andas, water pots, Kathuchattis, Soraga Chattis, Chombus and Coffee filters* are among the articles manufactured by the Society.

The Virudhunagar Viswakarma Vessel Workers' Industrial Co-operative Society Limited has 77 members and 30 employees. The total assets of the Society is Rs. 86,730. Average daily wage that a worker earns here is Rs. 3. All kind of domestic vessels of brass and copper are manufactured. Ornamental (Nahash) brass *kudams* manufactured here requires special mention. The value of the articles manufactured in this society is about Rs. 1,20,000 per annum.

The Chettinad Metal Workers' Co-operative Industrial Society Limited at Pallathur has 40 members out of which 10 are employed in the Society. The assets of the Society are Rs. 1,14,234.25. A worker gets Rs. 2.50 as wages per day on an average. Brass vessels are manufactured and the special varieties of vessels are *Thookku Chattis* and *Kudams*. During the year 1963-64 brass vessels worth Rs. 74,469.31 were manufactured by the Society.

The following table shows the amount of loan sanctioned to the various metal industries in the West Ramanathapuram Division alone during 1963-64 under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1922:

| Name of the industry.            | Number of cases. | Amount. |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| (1)                              | (2)              | (3)     |
|                                  |                  | RS.     |
| 1. Blacksmithy .. .. .           | 4                | 6,500   |
| 2. Brass Vessel Industry .. .. . | 2                | 3,000   |
| 3. Nib Industry .. .. .          | 5                | 11,500  |
| 4. Lock Industry .. .. .         | 2                | 2,000   |
| 5. Iron Nail Industry .. .. .    | 2                | 3,500   |
| 6. Spray Paint Unit .. .. .      | 1                | 2,000   |
| 7. Cycle head lamp unit .. .. .  | 1                | 2,000   |
| 8. Spray Paint .. .. .           | 1                | 1,500   |
| 9. Bush Button .. .. .           | 1                | 1,500   |
| Total ..                         | 19               | 33,500  |

During the same period in the East Ramanathapuram Division 4 units engaged in the industry relating to basic metal and their products, were sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3,500.

*Coir Industry:*—Cocoanut coir and fibre making are important cottage industries in the District. The coir industry in the District is carried on for a long time at important centres like Periyapatnam in the Ramanathapuram Taluk, Singampunari in the Tiruppattur Taluk and Srivilliputtur. Nearly 2,000 persons are now engaged in this industry at Singampunari and about 20 nomadic families at Devakottai. The major manufacture is different types of ropes. A worker in this industry earns about Rs. 1.25 per day. Including the manufacture of the coir co-operative society, nearly Rs. 3 lakhs worth of coir ropes are produced every year.

The husk or the outer covering of cocoanuts supplies the fibres for the coir industry. The work of preparing the fibres by carding manufacture begins with the husking of cocoanuts. After the cocoanut is plucked the husk is removed and peeled off by striking with a wooden spike. The husk is accumulated and is soaked in water in the pits dug for the purpose. After it is being soaked, it is again beaten against a stone with a wooden hammer and then the fibre is extracted. Thereafter the fibre is twisted by means of a spindle turned by hand. For manufacturing ropes three persons are required, one for allowing the fibre to be twisted and two people for twisting two ropes at the same time, the fibre being fed by one man for both the twisters.

Coir fibre in its raw form is used for stuffing up-holstery, mattresses, etc. Dyed and natural coir fibre is used for making door mats and mats of varying designs. The coir yarn is used for making coir mats and carpets.

There is an industrial co-operative society for the coir industry in the District at Singampunari with a strength of 99 members. The society produces ropes to the value of Rs. 35,000 annually.

*Toy or Doll Industry:*—Toy making is an important cottage industry in the District. Rameswaram being one of the important pilgrim centres in the District has given rise to the development of doll industry. First attempts were made towards this about 1920 when a small number of persons engaged themselves in this industry. The raw materials required for this industry are cowdung and tamarind starch which are available locally. The usual method of making dolls is to convert the tamarind seeds into starch and mix it with cowdung and cast it into figures in different moulds. After a figure is cast, it is coated with white earth and then painted with attractive colours.

There is one State aided T. C. K. Nagendra Cottage Industrial Works at Virudhunagar manufacturing toys made of tin. Toys such as ship, bungalow, hut, railway engine, motor car, etc.

are the special varieties made here. The total assets of the enterprise is about Rs. 5,000 and it employs 6 persons. It manufactures toys worth Rs. 10,000 per annum. The toys made here are sold at all temple cities in the states of Madras and Andhra Pradesh.

Another entrepreneur has obtained a State aid of Rs. 16,000 for manufacturing mechanical toys at Abiramam.

*Chank Fishing and Shell Collection Industry:*—Rameswaram, Periapattanam and Kilakkarai have been important chank fishing and shell collecting centres in the Ramanathapuram District. The chank beds lie along the coast of Bay of Bengal to a distance of 1·30 miles and over the ex-Zamindari area in Ramanathapuram from the south of Kattar river to Kannirajapuram and in Sivaganga area from Soundarapandiapatnam to Kanagadu.

The chanks collected are being processed by the individual artisans although a substantial portion is being exported to West Bengal which is the only potential market for chanks in the whole of India.

The chanks fishing and shell collection is a State monopoly. There are two big firms in Kilakkarai which have been granted lease in the Ramanathapuram District. Chank fishing is carried on during the months of September and November. Nearly 200 to 250 divers are employed during this season.

The chanks and shells are purchased by the traders. After cleaning the impurities, they are sold to the pilgrims. Chanks are used for the manufacture of bangles, rings, buttons and other ornamental wares. The total sales of chanks and shells per year are about 5 lakhs of rupees.

The need for a training centre to provide training to some of the local people at Rameswaram and other chank fishing centres in the manufacture of bangles, rings and buttons is under the active consideration of the Government. Some private persons are already doing this industry in a small scale.

*Boat Building Industry:*—Boat building industry is being carried on as a cottage industry in Tondi. The Units usually manufacture boats only on receipt of specific orders. Boats worth Rs. 3 lakhs are built every year. Good timber is mainly required for this industry. This is available locally from Karaikkudi and Madurai. The Department of Fisheries is also running some Units of their own for boat building where they assist the fishermen in the construction of modern boats at economic cost.

*Fancy Leaf Products:*—Fancy goods made of palmyra leaves of different colours and sizes attract the pilgrims visiting Rameswaram. Palmyra leaves are obtained from places like Valatharuvai, Uchipuli and Ramanathapuram. Nearly 2,000 workers find



employment in this industry. There are several palm-leaf industrial co-operative societies to help the artisans to conduct their business in an organised manner. The palm leaf cottage industrial co-operative societies are located at Ramanathapuram, Kamudi, Paramagudi, Mangalam, Chatrareddipatti, Mudukulattur, Kariapatti and Kirungakottai.

*Village Industries:*—Village industries occupy an unique position in the economy of the District.

The *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956) charged with the planning, organisation and implementation of Programmes for the development of 15 village industries including *Khadi*. Established in April, 1957, it took over the work of the former All-India *Khadi* and Village Industries Board.

The law provides for the constitution of a *Khadi* and Village Industries Board to advise the Commission in general in the discharge of its duties. The Madras *Khadi* and Village Industries Board Act, 1959 came into force in April 1960. The statutory State *Khadi* and Village Industries Board now functioning in all the States of India are an important link between the Commission and the assisted institutions. They are the channel through which aids normally flow for the development of *Khadi* and Village Industries in the States from the *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission to the institutions. They act as a co-ordinating agency performing functions which the individual institutions cannot undertake. They conduct training centres, publish literature and arouse public interest in and sympathy for this sector of economy. Though the State Board functions as an autonomous body vis-a-vis the State Government as well as the Commission there is close co-ordination at all levels.

Besides the President there are 8 officials and 9 non-official members. All matters both financial and administrative should have the approval of the member in charge of the District.

On the eve of the formation of the Board (1—4—1960) in the Madras State, the *Khadi* Programme was being worked out by the Department of *Khadi* under the Director of *Khadi*. The Village Industries Schemes were administered by the Director of Industries and Commerce. The Government in September 1960 ordered the transfer of the Department of *Khadi* and the Village Industries Wing of the Industries Department to the control of the Board. The Director of *Khadi* is incharge of development of *Khadi* and the Secretary, State *Khadi* and Village Industries Board has been declared as the head of the Department of Village Industries Wing. There is one Village Industries Officer in each District for implementing the Programme for Village Industries including Industrial Co-operative Societies undertaken by the State Board. He is

assisted by Co-operative Sub-Registrar, Cottage Industries Inspector, Extension Officer (Industries) at block level and also by supervisor for different industries employed by the *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission.

*Village Industries in the District*:—The village industries other than *Khadi*, coming under the purview of the Commission (*Khadi* and Village Industries Commission) are :

1. Processing of cereals and pulses.
2. Ghani oil.
3. Village leather.
4. Cottage match.
5. Gur and Khandasari.
6. Palmgur.
7. Non-edible oils and soaps.
8. Hand-made paper.
9. Village pottery.
10. Bee Keeping.
11. Fibre.
12. Blacksmithy and carpentry.
13. Manufacture of Methane gas and manure.
14. Lime stone and products.

At present the Government is passing a policy of giving encouragement to the development of hand pounding rice, ghani oil, palmgur, hand-made paper, pottery and brick making, bee-keeping and lime making. There is no scope for the development of cottage match, gur and khandasari. The manufacture of Methane gas and manure is still in the experimental shape and hence this industry has not been set up. There is scope for development of village leather, non-edible oil and soap, and fibre and earnest endeavours are being made to develop them.

The main idea of the *Khadi* Board is to aim at self sufficiency. The industry is started for the artisans engaged in that trade or craft.

*Village Oil Industry*:—There are at present 10 oil producers co-operative societies at Srivilliputtur (Srivilliputtur Block), Rengapanaickenpatty (Watrap Block), Sattur (Sattur Block), Thiruthangal (Sivakasi Block), Aruppukkottai (Aruppukkottai Block), Sayalgudy (Kadaladi Block), Kamudi (Kamudi Block), Dhalavoi-puram (Rajapalayam Block), Kalaiyarkoil (Kalaiyarkoil Block) and Nagamangalam (Singampunari Block). The Societies provide employment only to oil mongers (Chettiers). There are 241 members on rolls with a paid up share capital of Rs. 17,851. The number of registered *ghannies* is 84. Co-operative societies are formed wherever there is a concentration of 10 oil mongers and 5 to 6 *ghannies*. The availability of raw materials (i.e.), groundnut and gingili seeds and marketability are examined before the

registration of a society. The societies produce mostly groundnut oil. Some societies undertake the manufacture of gingili oil also. On an average an oil producer who works for about 25 days in a month gets about Rs. 125 as wages per month.

*Hand pounding of paddy*:—The hand pounding industry provides employment on a large scale, particularly to women in rural areas for 150 days in a year on an average. There are 15 industrial co-operatives with a membership of 548 and a paid up share capital of Rs. 9,350 in 1963. The societies are at Srivilliputtur (Srivilliputtur Block), Amathur (Virudhunagar Block), Aruppukkottai (Aruppukkottai Block), Johilpatty (Ariapatty Block), Sayalgudy (Kadaladi Block), Kamudi (Kamudi Block), Mudukulattur (Mudukulattur Block), Kalugoorani (Ramanathapuram Block), Kamuthagudy (Paramagudi Block), Periakottai (Manamadurai Block), Sivaganga (Sivaganga Block), Tiruvadanai (Tiruvadanai Block), Devakottai (Devakottai Block), Kunnakkudy (Kallal Block) and D. Mampatti (Singampunari Block). The raw materials required are purchased locally or from near by places. Competition from mills, the general apathy of the people for the hand pounded rice, and low vitality of women to hand pounding their rice for consumption are the prime causes for the decline of the industry. A hand pounder earns about 70 Paise to Re. 1 as wages per day. Efforts are being made, to introduce improved processes of parboiling developed by the Commission's Research Institute, at Wardha. Research is also continued in working better processes of production of rice and of improving the various implements used in the industry. Arrangements are also made to train persons in improved methods of production and popularisation of hand pounded rice.

*Pottery*:—Various causes have contributed to the decline of village pottery. Among them are the mass production of household articles by metal ware industry and production of products of highly centralised and mechanised ceramic industry. The Commission's programme for the development of industry is by extension. This help is offered to encourage formation of potters' co-operative societies to enable them to function satisfactorily. Potters' co-operative societies are now functioning at Manamadurai (Manamadurai Block), Rajapalayam (Rajapalayam Block), Chockanathamputhur (Rajapalayam Block), Sevalpatty (Kariapatti Block), Urapulli (Paramagudi Block), Veerakudi (Narikkudi Block) and Naripaiyoor (Kadaladi Block).

The quantum of assistance is worked out in relation to the needs of each society according to the production programme envisaged. About 456 potters are covered through the co-operative societies. A potter on an average earns Rs. 1.00 to 1.25 per day. There are 3 good working potters societies, 2 at Manamadurai and 1 at Rajapalayam. Improved potters' wheels (fitted with ball bearing) are given to potters. Where there are no possibilities of organising co-operative

societies, common worksheds are constructed to enable the potters to carry on their work in the sheds. 10 worksheds for potters are under construction 4 in Vembakkottai, 1 in Virudhunagar, 1 in Aruppukkottai, 2 in Narikkudy, 1 in Tiruvadanai and 1 in Kalaiyarkoil Block in the District.

**Brick Industry:**—Only country clamp brick are manufactured in the District. Industrial co-operative societies for brick makers have been started at Idayankulam (Srivilliputtur Block), Dhalavaipuram (Rajapalayam Block), Sattur (Sattur Block), Chinnipuram (Virudhunagar Block), Saminetham (Sivakasi Block), Sevalpatti (Vembakottai Block), Murugiahpuram (Kariapatti Block), M. Vennivaykkal (Mudukulattur Block), Elamanoor (Ramanathapuram Block), Kavanoor (Ramanathapuram Block), Devendranallur (Bogalur Block) and Sadurvedamangalam (Bogalur Block), Muthanendal (Manamadurai Block), Puliadithambam (Kalaiyarkoil Block), Pandigudi (Tiruvadanai Block), Nallangudy (Devakottai Block), Thalakkavoor (Kallal Block) and Vairavanpatty (Tiruppattur Block). Though there are 17 brick societies, only 2 societies are now (1963) working. Financial assistance has been extended to the societies recently. Most of the members of the societies are Harijans. Grants are also given for purposes other than working capital from the Harijan Welfare Fund. About 474 brick workers have been brought into the co-operative fold. Besides the industrial co-operatives, 2 brick units under the Panchayat Unions have also been organised in the Tirupuvanam block. Every brick worker earns on an average Rs. 2 to 3 per day.

**Lime Industry:**—In spite of limitations on the use of lime mortar and competition of cement, lime mortar is still a major building material. Its fuller utilisation is a substantial avenue for rural employment. There are 9 industrial co-operative societies located at Thombakulam (Srivilliputtur Block), Gangakulam (Sivakasi Block), Sippi-parai (Vembakottai Block), Malaipatty (Aruppukkottai Block), Mallanginar (Kariapatty Block), Kallakurichi (Kariapatty Block), Emaneswaram (Paramagudi Block), Kalaiyarkoil (Kalaiyarkoil Block) and Tirukalapatty (Tiruppattur Block). Besides the above 9 societies, sanction has been accorded for starting 7 lime units at Tiruppullani (Tiruppullani Block), Mantapam (Mantapam Block), Pallankudy (Ramanathapuram Block), Sundankulam (Vembakottai Block), Sundaralingapuram (Virudhunagar Block), Kamudi (Kamudi Block) and Thalakkavoor (Kallal Block). 131 workers have been brought into the co-operative fold.

**Bee-keeping Industry:**—As a cottage industry bee-keeping has a number of advantages. It can be pursued as a spare time occupation where there is ample vegetation natural or man-made. The scheme is in operation in Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks and Devakottai Block. One Industrial Co-operative Society has been

organised at Solaiseri (Rajapalayam Block). About 40 bee-keepers are beneficiaries of the society. The society purchases honey from its members and arranges for its marketing. Bee hives are also supplied at subsidised cost to the individuals in the Blocks.

*Hand-Made Paper Industry:*—One co-operative society for the production of hand-made paper has been started at Aruppukkottai. About 10 to 12 artisans who have been trained are engaged in this industry. On an average an artisan earns Rs. 1.50 per day. Hand-made paper industry has certain advantages over paper mills as the raw materials for it are locally and cheaply available, equipment can be easily manufactured in small workshops and labour is abundantly available in villages. Given the necessary encouragement and facility the hand-made paper industry can meet the growing demand for paper in the country to a considerable extent, saving imports and also providing employment to thousands. The raw material required are old rags, old paper, cotton waste cloth, cut pieces, etc. Use of power is essential. The society undertakes the manufacture of card board, file-board, rappers, blotting and hand-made writing paper.

*Soap-making with non-edible oil.*—The utilisation of edible oils for industrial purposes including soap making is largely responsible for the low per capita daily consumption of edible oils in the country. It is, therefore, necessary to substitute non-edible oils in industries and release the edible oils for human consumption. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has evolved programmes for collection of non-edible oil seeds, extraction of oil and making soaps from oil so extracted.

There is one soap unit at Sivakasi. Non-edible oil seeds like neem, iluppai, punnai, etc. which are otherwise wasted or sold at a very low price are crushed into oil and converted into soap. The following varieties of soaps are manufactured in the Sivakasi Soap Unit—

1. Washing soap in bars, cakes and chips.
2. Carbolic soap in cakes and bars.
3. Soft soap.

The soap manufactured in the Unit is not only cheap but is also of standard quality.

*Village Leather Industry:*—The leather industry affords work to many village artisans. The principal feature of the industry is tanning which is practised as a subsidiary occupation. Two aspects of the industry required special attention. One is flaying and recovery of what is possible from carcasses of fallen animals and converting into manure for use by the villages and the other is the tanning of flayed leather and selling it to the maximum advantages of the tanners. To these two ends the Board has been educating the artisans in the modern technique of the industry so that they may earn more without being disturbed from their present environment.

There are two flaying centres in the District one at Thiruthangal, in the Sivakasi Block and the other at Kanjanaickenpatti in the Aruppukkottai Block. The unit at Thiruthangal is now working. There is one flayer and his cost is met from the commission's fund. Three village tanneries have also been sanctioned at Piranpatti (Singampunari Block), Melathulukkankulam (Kariapatti) and Pavali (Virudhunagar).

Besides these units, individual tanners have also been given free grant for construction of new pits and repairing of old pits. So far 108 tanners have been given Rs. 200 each for construction of new pits and 29 at Rs. 50, for repairing their old pits. Besides the above 28 cobblers have been given tools worth Rs. 50 each free of cost.

*Palmgur Industry:*—Palm trees are in abundance in the District especially in Srivilliputtur, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur taluks. There are 171 jaggery manufacturing societies and one District Federation. There are 27,312 members in all these societies. Annually about 8,700 licences for tapping sweet juice and 5,000 permits for selling of necra are being issued to the members of the primary societies. Tapping palmyrah trees is a seasonal industry (i.e.) for 6 months in a year.

A tapper will earn on an average Rs. 2 per day. Almost all the tappers do not own trees but they take on lease the required number of trees. For the benefit and uplift of the tappers several schemes such as supply of improved materials like pans, etc., issue of off season loans, storage facilities like godowns, etc. have been contemplated.

*Blacksmithy and Carpentry:*—In the context of integrated development of rural economy this twin industries have to be revitalised with the help of improved tools and equipment. Under the Community Development Programme, blacksmithy and carpentry units are set up. Training is imparted to ten artisans for a period of one year. After the period of one year of training, the unit is converted either as an Industrial Co-operative or as a Production Unit. The location of the units in the District as on December, 1963 are as given below :—

Carpentry—

Keelarajakularaman (Srivilliputtur Block).

Kariapatti (Kariapatti block).

Nainarkoil (Bogalur Block).

Ilayangudi (Ilayangudi).

Carpentry—

Mantapam (Mantapam Block).

Irukkankudi (Sattur Block).

Thiruuthirakosamangai (Tiruppullani).

M. Reddiapatti (Tiruchuli).

Palayampatti (Aruppukkottai).

R. S. Mangalam (R. S. Mangalam Block).

Veeracholam (Narikkudi Block).

**Blacksmithy—**

Pulithipatti (Singampuneri Block)

Vellayapuram (Kannangudi).

Bonmakottai (hiruchuli Block).

Sakkottai (Sakkottai Block).

Palayampatti (Aruppukkottai).

**Carpentry and Blacksmithy :—**

Tiruvadannai (Tiruvadanni Block).

Konthagui (Tiruppuvanam Block).

Kallal (Kallal Block).

Devipattinam (Ramanathapuram Block).

Only seven units have now commenced production. As regards others they are under several stages of progress and besides this, common worksheds have been constructed wherever there are large concentration of artisans. Worksheds are under constructions at the following places:—

**Carpentry—**

Rajagopalapuram—Srivilliputtur Block.

**Blacksmithy—**

Poovandi—Srivilliputtur Block.

**Blacksmithy and Carpentry—**

Nachiarpatti—Srivilliputtur Block.

Nalloor

Iluppaiyur

Idayapatti

Kavanur—Ramanathapuram

Vannangundu—Tiruppullani.

Melanathur

Periakottai

Milaganur

Kattikulam

Narikkudi.

Manamadurai.

**Industrial Co-operatives:—**There are about 43 industrial co-operative societies in this District for the development of industries like blacksmithy, metal works, furniture, match industry, palm leaf, coir-making, mat-weaving etc. The total capital outlay is about Rs. 15 lakhs. It is also proposed to establish a co-operative Industrial Estate at Sivakasi with a capital outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs of which the Government has proposed to contribute Rs. 8 lakhs as loan.

There are fourteen industrial co-operative societies in the east Ramanathapuram District and 29 industrial co-operative societies in the west Ramanathapuram District.

*Industrial Arts:*—There are about six families at Virudhunagar who do wood carving. The workers in the Vessel Workers' Industrial Co-operative Society at Virudhunagar also do good engravings on vessels. They make the popular ornamental (*nahash*) brass *Kudams*.

*State aid to Industries:*—Inadequacy of capital has always handicapped the progress of industries. To a great extent this has been met by the liberalised rules, introduced under the State Aid to Industries Act in the year 1956. Under the liberalised rules loans are issued upto Rs. 1,000 upon the personal security of the applicant, individual or all partners and on one or more sureties in respect of the loans upto Rs. 5,000 provided the solvency of the sureties is certified by an official of the Revenue Department not lower than that of a Revenue Divisional Officer. And secured loans are granted up to Rs. 25,000 by the various officers of the Department upto the monetary limits vested with each. The Director of Industries and Commerce is also empowered to grant loans on security upto Rs. 50,000 on the recommendations of the Board of Industries and the loans exceeding this amount are to be granted by the State Government. Another feature of this liberalised rule is that loans for small scale industries may be granted upto 75 per cent of the net value of assets of any other property offered as collateral security for the loan. As regards the Industrial Co-operatives, loans may be granted upto ten times their paid-up share capital plus the Reserve Fund.

With the introduction of liberalised rules, the Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce (the Principal, District Industries Office of the District) is himself empowered to sanction the loans upto Rs. 5,000. This has rendered the position very easy and so many of the industrialists are greatly benefited as their applications are disposed off quickly.

*Assistance to Small Scale Industry:*—Under the field of small scale industries, a visible development is noticeable in the private sector on account of the increased facilities made available to them. The principal needs of small scale industries are training and technical advice in the adoption of improved tools, machines and new techniques, supply of raw materials and power at reasonable rates, provision of adequate finance on fair terms, facilities for importing or purchasing new machines, provision of adequate factory space, provisions of servicing facilities in operations involving the use of costly machines and assistance in marketing. In this regard, the entrepreneurs in this District have their due share of assistance and technical advice and the Departmental Engineering Workshop at Rajapalayam provides the facilities. In addition to this, the establishment of a tool room in the premises of the Industrial Estate Sulakarai has further facilitated for servicing and training for industries in the area.



**Industrial Potential and Plans for Future Development:**—The Ramanathapuram District has particular advantage for ceramic industry. The Department of Industries and Commerce has made a survey of the District and has found it with rich raw materials. The high quality fire clay found at Sivaganga has been tested and found to be fit for manufacturing high grade fire clay refractories. The clay found here contains 32 per cent of alumina. With an addition of 10 per cent of plastic clay, it will be suitable for the manufacture of fire bricks by wire cutting and repressing method.

The Department of Industries has carried out intensive investigations of Sivaganga and found that about  $\frac{1}{2}$  million tons of fire clay is available at this place. In case of mining these clays with a minimum expenditure, a small refractory plant of 7,500 tons capacity per year may be started at Sivaganga.

Besides the possibility of erecting a refractory plant, the possibilities of starting a roofing tile manufacturing unit near Manamadurai are very bright. Near Manamadurai good quality clay suitable for manufacturing tiles on the model of Mangalore tiles hurdles, floorings, wire-cut bricks, etc., is available in plenty. About 390 acres of waterspread area contain the deposits of such clay. The implementation by the Development Blocks of local development works and rural housing schemes under the Five-Year Plans has resulted in large scale construction of great and small buildings in all parts of the District. This has given rise to an increased demand for building materials including tiles. Thus there is good prospects for starting a tile manufacturing unit in this District.

Cotton being the main raw material in the District, cotton seed and linters are available as bye-products. The establishment of a plant for the extraction of cotton seed oil is quite possible. With the cellulose obtained by delinting may be changed into cellulose acetate or nitrate and used in varnishing metal, wood work, etc. There is also large scope for developing oil and soap industry in the District.

Another industry that can be developed in the District is the salt industry. The District has a potential source for raw materials for this industry. The Development of this industry on scientific lines may lead to the recovery of marine chemicals like magnesium chlorides, sulphates, sodium sulphates, potassium chloride, bromine etc.

The following extracts from the Report of the Techno-Economic Survey of the Madras State by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (published in 1960) are also of interest.

Among the minerals already being exploited in the State, magnesite, gypsum, limestone, salt and clay are important. Of these, magnesite, limestone and clay offer good scope for development. Salem magnesite reserves are among the best in the country. Large deposits of limestone and clay available in Tirunelveli,

Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirapalli and Salem districts can support even bigger capacities of cement, refractories and ceramic industries than suggested in this report. This depends on the demand in the country.

Besides the investments suggested for specific plants or industries, investments are also expected to occur in other industries. Of these, textiles and engineering industries would be the most important. Both these industries are well established in Madurai and Tiruchirapalli, and therefore, substantial growth in these districts can also be anticipated. Districts in which potential for the growth of large scale industries seems meagre are Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari. Special attention should consequently be given to the development of small scale industries in these districts. Their location on the sea coast provides excellent possibilities for the development of fishing and plantation (coconut and cashewnut) industries. These along with other food industries could form the base for the development of a variety of small scale industries.

In 1938, Madras State had 4,55,000 handlooms or roughly a fifth of all the handlooms in India. Employment in the industry was estimated roughly 8 lakhs in 1938. Handloom weaving is a common cottage industry in the villages in Madras but the main concentrations are in Salem, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, North Arcot and Tirunelveli districts.

The development of small scale and cottage industries is the direct responsibility of the State Government. It provides assistance for its growth in several ways, but chiefly in the form of loans, technical assistance and technical training facilities. Loans are granted under the State Aid to Industries Act through the Industrial Investment Corporation, and the State Bank. Total disbursement comes to Rs. 47 lakhs. Madras City and Coimbatore, both well developed industrially, have the major share with 30 per cent and 18 per cent of the total advances. In disbursing loans, apart from the criteria of credit worthiness of the party and soundness of scheme, another criterion might be devised. A preferential treatment might be given to parties who wish to start an enterprise in areas where there is scope for the development of small scale industries.

**LABOUR AND EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.**

**Employers' Organisation.—**

1. Indian Chamber of Commerce, Virudhunagar.
2. Vijaya Bharathi Chamber of Commerce, Virudhunagar.

**Employees' Organisation.—**

1. The Rajapalayam Mill Workers Union, Duraiswamypuram, Rajapalayam.
2. The Manamadurai Potters Union, Kullakar Street, Manamadurai.
3. Ramnad District Motor Labourers Union, Karaikkudi.
4. Virudhunagar Thozhilalar Sangam, 224, Gandhipuram street, Virudhunagar.
5. The Municipal Thozhilalar Sangam, 55, Gandhipuram street, Virudhunagar.
6. The Tobacco Workers Union, Dalavaipuram, (via) Rajapalayam.
7. The Press Workers Union, Naval Nadar street, Sivakasi.
8. Manamadurai Tile Workers Union, Kammar street, Manamadurai.
9. Ramnad District Chank Divers Union, Muslim Bazaar, Kilakarai.
10. The National Textile Workers Union, 122, Gandhi Bazaar, Boopalarajapatti, Rajapalayam.
11. Virudhunagar Textile Mills Labourers Union, Virudhunagar (c/o I.N.T.U.C, Marakadai Lane, Virudhunagar).
12. Virudhunagar Industrial Workers Labourers Union, Kullur Chandai Road, Virudhunagar.
13. Kattida Thozhilalar Sangam, Jinnah Street, Melakarai.
14. Highways and District Board Road Workers Union, Travellers Bungalow, Aruppukkottai.
15. The National Engineering Workers Union, 256, Bhoopalarajapatti, Rajapalayam.
16. The National Match Workers Union, 1/124, Sivankoil Street, Sattur.
17. Srivilliputtur General Workers Union, Library street, Srivilliputtur.
18. Mugavai Achaga Thozhilalar Sangam, 267/7, Market street, Ramanathapuram.
19. The Ilayangudi Panchavat Workers Union, 4/132( 2nd Floor), Main Road, Ilayangudi.
20. The Rukmani Mills Workers' Union, Silaiman.
21. The Theopatti Thozhilalar Sangam, Door No. 2-4-42, Muslim street, Sivakasi.
22. The General Workers Union, Duraiswamypuram, Rajapalayam.
23. The Salavai Thozhilalar Sangam, 456/W. 14, Sivakamipuram street, Rajapalayam.
24. Sri Moonambigai Workers Union, Cutchery Road, Virudhunagar.
25. Ramnad District National General Labour Union, 681, South Car street, Virudhunagar.
26. I.T.P.I. Workers Union, 2/2, Pavali Road, Virudhunagar.
27. Chandra Industrial Labour Union, 16, Innasipanikkar street, Virudhunagar.
28. The Chottinad Textile Mills Workers Union, Chettinad.
29. Metal Workers Union, Pallathur.
30. Aruppukkottai Bus Lorry Thozhilalar Sangam, Aruppukkottai.
31. Paramagudi Pottery Workers Union, Ward No. 1, Velar street, Paramagudi.
32. Dalavaipuram Handloom Factory Labour Union, Seithur P.O., Dalavai-puram.
33. Andavar Transport Labourers Welfare Union, Tiruppattur Road, Devakottai.

34. Tiruppuvanam .(Vetralai Kodikkal Vivasayigal Sangam, Veerabhadra-samy Building, East Car street, Sattur.
35. Madras Cements National Workers Union, 359-B, Kamatchi Naicker street, Sattur.
36. Periakottai Iykia Thozhilalar Sangam, Periakottai P.O., Sivaganga Taluk.
37. Weavers Union, 17-7-13-A, yarn Bazaar, Aruppukkottai.
38. Aruppukkottai Taluk Handloom Weavers' Association, Chockalingapuram, Aruppukkottai.
39. Thachu Thozhilalar Sangam, W/8/4-53, South street, Singampuneri Tiruppattur Taluk.
40. General Workers Union, Thiyaigal Road, Devakottai.
41. National Tiles Workers Union, Keela Tile Factory Compound, Mangalapuram, Manamadurai.
42. Sri Jaya Vilas Motor Labourers Union, 101, Great Cotton Road, Aruppukkottai.
43. Virudhunagar National Cigar Workers Union, 99, Rosalpatti Road, Virudhunagar.
44. Village General United Workers Union (Siruvannur Group), Palayanoor P.O., Tiruppattur Taluk.
45. Nagarasuthi Thozhilalar Munnetra Sangam, Nattarasankottai, Sivaganga Taluk.
46. The Motor Workers Union, Rajaji Road, Srivilliputtur.
47. I.T.P.T. National Workers Union, Railway Feeder Road, Virudhunagar.
48. Sri Srinivasa Motor Labour Union, 186, Ramamoorthy Road, Virudhunagar.
49. Rajapalayam Motor and Lorry Workers Union, Cotton Market, Rajapalayam.
50. Virudhunagar Press Workers Union, 24, Gandhipuram street, Virudhunagar.
51. General Workers Union, Bharathi Buildings, Chekkalai Road, Karaikkudi.
52. Dravida Panchalai Thozhilalar Munnetra Sangam, Solapuram, Rajapalayam.
53. Sattur Motor Thozhilalar Sangam, 8/53, Rightern Row Main Road, Sattur.
54. Nib Workers Union, Sattur.
55. Tiruppattur Taluk Handloom Workers Union, Karaikkudi.
56. National Textile Workers Union, Chettinad.
57. Chettinad Merchantile Bank Employees' Union, Chettinad.
58. Kamudi General Workers Union, 9/124, Mettur street, Kamudi.
59. Tamilnad Thotta Thozhilalar Munnetra Sangam, Chinnamanur.

#### WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR (LABOUR WELFARE).

Sufficient provisions are made in the Factories Act and are being enforced by Department of Labour to provide washing facilities, first-aid appliances, housing accommodation, canteens, rest shed and creches in factories, according to the strength of workers.

Facilities for education to the children of workers, payment of bonus, etc. are also given to workers.

**Housing Accommodation:**—The Rajapalayam Mills, Limited, Rajapalayam, grants advance to workers to construct houses under the subsidised industrial housing scheme.

**Education:**—*Rajapalayam Mills, Limited:*—It pays school fees to all children of the mill workers upto S.S.L.C.

*Jayaram Mills Limited:*—School fees of the children of mill workers are being paid by the management.

**Medical Facilities:**—Rajapalayam Mills Limited, Rajapalayam. *Jayaram Mills Limited, Rajapalayam.*

A dispensary has been kept in charge of a qualified compounder for the benefit of workers.

**Co-operative Societies and Stores:**

*Rajapalayam Mills Limited, Rajapalayam.*

*Jayaram Mills Limited., Rajapalayam.*

A registered co-operative stores and a credit society are functioning for the benefit of the workers.

**Bonus:**—In the Rajapalayam Mills Limited, Rajapalayam, the workers are paid bonuses at the rate of 50 per cent of the earned basic wages. The following mills also pay bonus to their workers:—

(1) Aruppukkottai Sri Jaya Vilas (Private) Limited, Aruppukkottai.

(2) Sivakasi Industrial Printing Works, Sivakasi.

(3) The Premier Litho Works No. I, Sivakasi.

(4) National Fire Works Factory, Sithirajapuram Village, Sivakasi.

(5) The Premier Litho Works No. II, Sivakasi.

(6) Kanagam Litho Press, Sivakasi.

(7) Papco Offset Printing Works, Sivakasi.

#### OTHER AMENITIES PROVIDED.

*Rajapalayam Mills Limited., Rajapalayam:*—It provides radio, water cooler and fans in the canteen. Free supply of milk and biscuits are also provided to children admitted in the creche. Tea and refreshment are also supplied to workers at subsidised cost.

*Aruppukkottai Sri Jaya Vilas (Private) Limited, Aruppukkottai:*—It supplies two sets of uniforms to workers.

**Madras Maternity Benefit Act and Rules:**—Seventeen claims were made under the Madras Maternity Benefit Act during the year 1961 and a total amount of Rs. 421 was paid to women workers towards maternity benefit.

# APPENDIX I.

## SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES : POSSIBILITIES.

| Industry.<br>(1)                           | Number of<br>Units.<br>(2) | Land<br>Building and<br>equipment.<br>(3) | Working<br>capital.<br>(4) | Employment<br>potential.<br>(5) | Annual<br>production.<br>(6) | District locations.<br>(7)   |
|--|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <i>I. Raw Material-Oriented Industries</i> |                            |   |                            |                                 |                              |  |
| 1. Leather goods .. ..                     | 4                          | 2-00                                      | 3-00                       | 140                             | 6-00                         | Madurai,<br>North Arcot,<br>Kanyakumari and<br>Ramanathapuram.               |
| 2. Biscuits .. ..                          | 5                          | 10-00                                     | 2-50                       | 200                             | 10-00                        | Kanyakumari,<br>Madurai,<br>Thanjavur,<br>South Arcot and<br>Ramanathapuram. |
| 3. Potteryware .. ..                       | 1                          | 5-00                                      | 1-50                       | 100                             | 4-00                         | Ramanathapuram and<br>Coimbatore   |
| <i>II. Market-Oriented Industries--</i>    |                            |   |                            |                                 |                              |  |
| 4. Textile Mill parts .. ..                | 12                         | 27-00                                     | 6-00                       | 480                             | 18-00                        | Ramanathapuram (8),<br>Madurai (3) and<br>Salem (3).                         |
| 5. Conduit pipes .. ..                     | 8                          | 7-50                                      | 2-25                       | 150                             | 4-00                         | Coimbatore,<br>Madras and<br>Ramanathapuram.                                 |
| 6. Trunk and attached case<br>fittings.    | 9                          | 7-00                                      | 1-00                       | 100                             | 4-00                         | North Arcot<br>and Ramanathapuram,   |
| 7. Rural Workshop .. ..                    | 50                         | 27-50                                     | 2-50                       | 750                             | 7-50                         | All Districts.   |
| 8. Mechanical Toys .. ..                   | 3                          | 2-75                                      | 0-75                       | 150                             | 3-60                         | Madras,<br>Kanyakumari and<br>Ramanathapuram.                                |
| 9. Plastic products .. ..                  | 4                          | 7-60                                      | 0-80                       | 120                             | 12-00                        | Coimbatore,<br>Kanyakumari,<br>Ramanathapuram and<br>South Arcot.            |



## APPENDIX III.

The following list shows some of the important and leading match  
in the District—

At Sivakasi :

|         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Messrs. | South Indian Lucifer Match Works.    |
| "       | Imperial Match Works.                |
| "       | Graham Match Works.                  |
| "       | Lotus Match Works.                   |
| "       | Jayam Match Works.                   |
| "       | National Match Works.                |
| "       | Palaniappa Match Industries.         |
| "       | Lakshmi Match Works.                 |
| "       | Hind Matches Limited.                |
| "       | Pandyan Match Industries.            |
| "       | Standard Match Industries.           |
| "       | Pioneer Match Works.                 |
| "       | Tanzing Match Works.                 |
| "       | Brilliant Match Works.               |
| "       | Arasan Match Industries              |
| "       | Sri Kaliswari Colour Match Works     |
| "       | Shenbagam Match Works.               |
| "       | Gnanam Match Works.                  |
| "       | Ashok Match Industries.              |
| "       | Sri Krishna Match Works.             |
| "       | Kasthuri Match Industries.           |
| "       | Nadar Match Works.                   |
| "       | Bharat Match Works.                  |
| "       | Siddique Match Works.                |
| "       | Central Match Works.                 |
| "       | Coronation Match Works.              |
| "       | Baby Match Industries.               |
| "       | Noble Match Industries.              |
| "       | Sri Jana Match Works.                |
| "       | Jayavilas Match Works.               |
| "       | Sun Match Industries.                |
| "       | Royal Match Works.                   |
| "       | Gopuram Match Company.               |
| "       | Kaka Match Industries.               |
| "       | Pilot Match Works.                   |
| "       | Vespa Match Works.                   |
| "       | Premier Match Works.                 |
| "       | Thirupathy Venkateswara Match Works. |
| "       | Kamal Match Works.                   |
| "       | Salco Match Industries.              |
| "       | Blue Mountain Match Works.           |
| "       | Star Match Industries.               |
| "       | International Match Trading Company. |
| "       | Standard Colour Match Works.         |
| "       | South India Match Company.           |
| "       | Lingar Match Works.                  |
| "       | Ajantha Match Industries.            |



**At Sivakasi---cont.**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Messrs.</b> | <b>Tamilnad Match Works.</b>             |
| "              | <b>India Cottage Match Industries.</b>   |
| "              | <b>Weldone Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Minerva Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Universal Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Sri Mahalakshmi Match Works.</b>      |
| "              | <b>Sri Annamalaiar Match Works.</b>      |
| "              | <b>Sakthi Match Factory.</b>             |
| "              | <b>Sri Kalavathi Match Works.</b>        |
| "              | <b>Sri Arunachalam Match Industries.</b> |
| "              | <b>Sri Ganesh Match Works.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Sri Ram Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Sree Murugan Match Works.</b>         |
| "              | <b>Annamalai Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Rajasekaran Match Industries.</b>     |
| "              | <b>Anandarajan Match Works.</b>          |
| "              | <b>Mohan Match Industries.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Jaya Match Works.</b>                 |
| "              | <b>Ravi Match Company.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Prakash Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Selvam Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Arumugam Match Industries.</b>        |
| "              | <b>Rama Match Works.</b>                 |
| "              | <b>Manasa Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Thiagaraja Match Works.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Arunagiri Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Natesh Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Shanmugam Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Jaysakkoti Match Works.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Boopathy Match Company.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Sri Ranga Match Industries.</b>       |
| "              | <b>Sankar Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Vasan Match Works.</b>                |
| "              | <b>Murthy Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Raj Match Works.</b>                  |
| "              | <b>Raviraj Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Ganapathi Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Venkatesh Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Muthu Match Industries.</b>           |
| "              | <b>Sankar Match Works.</b>               |
| "              | <b>Senthil Match Works.</b>              |
| "              | <b>Nelson Match Company.</b>             |
| "              | <b>Ranga Match Works.</b>                |
| "              | <b>Srinivasa Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Janakiram Match Works.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Subbaraj Match Works.</b>             |
| "              | <b>Jayaram Match Factory.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Gopalan Match Factory.</b>            |
| "              | <b>Raja Match Works.</b>                 |

**At Sivakasi—cont.**

|   |                                 |    |    |    |
|---|---------------------------------|----|----|----|
| „ | Prabhakaran Match Works.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Bremah Match Works.             | .. | .. | .. |
| „ | Mremesh Match Works.            |    |    |    |
| „ | Thilagam Match Industries.      |    |    |    |
| „ | Rathna Match Works.             |    |    |    |
| „ | Tamilmani Match Works.          |    |    |    |
| „ | Santhi Match Industries.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Mahalakshmi Match Works.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Ratha Match Works.              |    |    |    |
| „ | Rajalakshmi Match Works.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Malliga Match Works.            |    |    |    |
| „ | Ganga Jothi Match Factory.      |    |    |    |
| „ | Saraswathi Match Industries.    |    |    |    |
| „ | Sivagami Match Works.           |    |    |    |
| „ | Meenambal Match Factory.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Sakuntala Match Industries.     |    |    |    |
| „ | Manoranjitha Match Works.       |    |    |    |
| „ | Jamuna Match Industries.        |    |    |    |
| „ | Aruna Match Works.              |    |    |    |
| „ | Cauveri Match Industries.       |    |    |    |
| „ | Guru Match Works.               |    |    |    |
| „ | Pakialakshmi Match Works.       |    |    |    |
| „ | Thilagam Match Works.           |    |    |    |
| „ | Seethalakshmi Match Industries. |    |    |    |

**At Sattur :**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| „ | Original Match Factory.                               |
| „ | Muthuramalingam Match Factory.                        |
| „ | Ambal Match Factory.                                  |
| „ | K. A. P. Paul Nadar Match Factory.                    |
| „ | Sankareswari Match Factory.                           |
| „ | Sattur Match Workers Co-operative Industrial Society. |
| „ | Vivekananda Match Factory.                            |
| „ | Haran Match Factory.                                  |
| „ | Dharmaraj Match Factory.                              |
| „ | Sudar Match Factory.                                  |

**AT Eloyirampennai.**

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| „ | Karmegam Match Factory. |
| „ | Jeyaraj Match Factory.  |

## CHAPTER VI.

### BANKING TRADE AND COMMERCE.

*Ancient Banking habits:*—The most ancient credit institution in this region is the temple. The temples richly endowed by the kings not only lent to the peasants in times of need, but acted as custodians of savings and valuables. In times of distress like famines and failure of crops, they came out with their resources to help the ryots with loans so as to alleviate distress. There is ample epigraphical evidence to support this. From these inscriptions it is inferred that money was lent and the interests on the money lent was utilised for occasional repairs of the temple or the irrigation channels damaged by floods. Money was lent with or without security but in all cases the social standing and the credit of the borrower was counted. Not only individuals but also the village assemblies borrowed money from the temple for purpose such as purchasing a house site or repairing a tank<sup>1</sup>.

The next historical development was the practice of a few well-to-do persons lending a part of their savings. With the passage of time a few communities came to specialise in this function and they are the precursors of the indigenous bankers in Ramanathapuram District. Notable among them are the Nattukkottai Chettiars and the Manjapur Chettiars.

*The Nattukkottai Chettiars:*—The Nattukkottai Chettiars of the Madras State represent an important section of the indigenous bankers of India. They have from very early times spread their banking business not only in the Ramanathapuram District and in other parts of South India but also in neighbouring countries like Ceylon, Burma and Malaya. They do considerable business in *hundi* and hypothecation of immovable properties in all the districts of the State. The number of indigenous bankers belonging to other communities when compared to that of Nattukkottai Chettiars is very negligible in the District.

The Community of Nattukkottai Chettiar seems to be particularly organised for carrying on the essential service of banking. It has numerous caste regulations which are meant only, to facilitate the efficient discharge of the duty for the society as a whole. Their population is about half a lakh. The home of this caste of enterprising bankers comprises of seventy-eight villages partly in the Pudukkottai Taluk in the Tiruchirapalli District and partly in the Ramanathapuram District. Karaikkudi, Devakottai and Pallathur are of the important centres of their business activity in the District. The palatial mansions of the bankers, the vast number of privately

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1. A. Appadurai, *Economic condition in Southern India—1936—Pages 288-289 and pages 434-435*

owned automobiles plying in these parts and the lavish expenditure on festivals and marriages, are some visible signs of the opulence of the bankers.

Their banking profession may be traced to centuries past, but the exact date of its origin and the founder of the system of banking are matters lost in the mist of antiquity. An attractive feature of the Nattukkottai bankers is that they live amongst their own borrowers and always keep a strict watch over the financial stability of the borrowers. This practice saves them from much of the losses resulting from bad debts or the failure to ask the debtors to repay at the right time. Unlike the agents in big commercial banks, the agents and clerks of the Chetti bankers are easily approachable by the borrowers. The Chetti bankers have successfully dispensed with departmentalisation and red-tapism and hence financial accommodation, can be got without much loss of time. As a result, the indigenous banking system of Nattukkottai Chettiars is able to keep its own position in spite of the competition from more powerful joint stock banks, due to its comprehensiveness and the elasticity of the methods. They do not stick to cut and dry rules of banking but adjust their business to changing situation and needs. They lend money for short as well as long periods. They finance the industrialist, the agriculturist, the retail and wholesale traders. They also act as agents for the transmission of moneys. It may be remarked that the work done by several kinds of banks commercial, industrial, investment and co-operative banks in advanced countries is discharged to a very great extent by the Nattukkottai bankers of one kind or another in this part of the country.

Such high level of efficiency and enterprise that characterise the Nattukkottai Chetti bankers are not attained by muddling their way through but by the conscious training of their sons and successors in the art of banking. They are imbued to the full with the contents of the maxim, "Good banking depends on good bankers". Most of the Chetti bankers who have won laurels in their profession were not diploma holders in banking but those who were brought up in the hard school of practice and experience. No doubt diplomas are useful, but the fact that the Chetti bankers were able to attain such eminence in their field without recognised diplomas bears testimony to the training given during the period of apprenticeship. In the words of Mr. Thurston "The Nattukkottai Chettis, in organisation, Co-operation and business methods are as remarkable as the European merchants.....". The simple but strict training which they give their boys, the long and tedious apprenticeship which even the sons of the richest among them have to undergo, make them very efficient in their profession and methodical in whatever they undertake to do.

The Nattukkottal Chettis conduct their business both direct and through their branches in charges of agents. These agents are picked out of those who have considerable experience in the business and who satisfy the Chettiar about their capacity to bear the special and onerous responsibilities cast by different branches of the firm in India, Burma, Malaya and Indo-China. The firm he represents bears all his expenses including boarding and lodging. The salary ranges from Rs. 150 and above according as he is sent to branches nearby Chettinad or further away from Chettinad such as Rangoon, Singapore or Saigon. The agents are sent to represent the firm for a period of three years and successor is sent to relieve him a month or two before the completion of the term. They are also generally given a share in the profits of the firm. The high salaries and shares in the profits are paid in order to keep their agents above the temptations to carry on private trade in a way detrimental to the firms they represent. But any evasions on the part of the agents can be very easily detected by the proprietor of the firm for he is himself brought up in the school of experience and he is well aware of every secrets of the trade and the opportunities for evasion. Any detection of such misbehaviour on the part of the agent will stand in the way of their being sent to represent any other firm in the future and this fear acts as a check upon the agents against plying their private trade. Besides the proprietor of the firm pays periodical visits to the different branches and thus directly acquaints himself with the way in which the officials in different branches conduct themselves.

Their capital resources appear as though they are inexhaustible. Their credit stands high with the joint stock banks which are willing to lend them on joint signatures. An idea of the variety of business transacted by the Chetti bankers can be gained from the oral evidence given before the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee. The Chetti bankers lend on "personal security, promissory notes, hundies, hypothecation, mortgage of title deeds as well as stock in trade and against bills of exchange. Besides, they act as Company promoters and financiers in addition to their managing extensive paddy lands in Burma and rubber estates and tin mines in Malaysia States.

The deposits of Chetti bankers are of two kinds (1) The current deposits received at the "*Nadappu*" rate of interest. (The "*Nadappu*" or current rate is fixed every month at the meeting of the Nattukottai Chettiar businessmen of Madras City. The rate varies from 6 to 12 per cent per annum according to the demands of the money market). (2) The "*Thavamai*" deposits correspond to the time deposits of the joint-stock banks. But the deposits are taken for a period of two months after which period the depositor has got the option to withdraw and if he fails to do, the deposit will be renewed for a further period of two months till he withdraws. Unlike the joint-stock banks which have a fixed rate for time

deposits, the Nattukkottai Chettiars in their meetings fix the rate for "Thavuni" deposits every week after studying the condition of the money market.

Lending rates of the Chettiars vary according to the amount lent and the security. It is always above the bank rate ranging from 6 per cent to 12 per cent according to the seasonal variations of demands for credit. The rates of Chetti bankers are higher than Joint-stock banks because most of their lending is on personal security which is not very much recognised in the joint-stock banks. Sometimes a higher rate of interest than what is intended to be collected is specified in the loan document in order to cover possible losses in the event of the debtor resorting to tactics which cause delay in the realisation of the loan amount.

The lending rates are higher in villages than in towns, because the borrowers in the village fail to give adequate securities for their loans and also partly due to jointstock banks not competing with the Chetti bankers in financing the villagers. The indigenous Chetti bankers are the main channels through which credit flows into the villages. Sometimes the Chetti bankers finance the agriculturists indirectly. They supply credit facilities to the village merchants and town traders with whom the agriculturists are keeping accounts. These middlemen supply credit facilities to the agriculturists on the understanding that the produce of the borrowers should be brought to them for sale.

Small bankers lend money on what is known as "*Kandu*" or *thandal* system. When money is lent on this basis interest is taken in advance and the loan is repaid in equated instalments daily or monthly. In the oral evidence before the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee it is said that it is difficult to lend more than Rs. 10,000 by this system, the number of clerks to collect the instalments, to attend to litigation in the case of defaulters make this system unsuitable for big bankers. The actual rate of interest realised by the lender is by far greater than the rate at which the whole loan is advanced.

Agriculturists do not generally borrow on "*Kandu*" system because they cannot meet daily or monthly repayments. They borrow a lump sum and repay it during the harvest season. Small shop keepers and petty traders and some officials receiving monthly salaries resort to this system of borrowing because it means easy repayment. Another reason that influences these people to borrow on "*Kandu*" system is the unwillingness of the joint-stock banks and other institutions to advance them credit on personal security.

The Chetti bankers also advance loans for long-term on the security of lands and other immovable properties. These loans are called 'bokkiam' or 'other' loans. By this system the lender enjoys the benefits of possession of property till the money is returned.

The maximum period for this loan is 60 years and after this period, if the loans are not repaid, the property automatically becomes the property of the creditors. This is a very important method by which they pay long-term loans to the agriculturists. Besides lending money on short and long-terms to agriculturists and traders they also facilitate the transmission of money by hundis. There are three kinds of them.

1. Dersani hundis ... ... Light hundis.
2. Nadappuvaddi hundis ... This carries interest at nadappu vaddi rate from the date to the presentation.
3. Usance hundis payable at a fixed period after a date or at sight.

The Chetti bankers were able to undertake this kind of business because they had a number of branches in Burma, Malaysia and Saigon apart from the main offices in India.

Burma, Malaysia and Indo-China own their economic rehabilitation to the enterprise of the Nattukkottai Chetty bankers. In 1927, Sir Harcourt Butler, then Governor of Burma in a speech addressing them said, "You represent a very important factor indeed in the life of this province. Without the assistance of the Chettiar banking system, Burma would never have achieved the wonderful advance of the last 25 to 30 years. The Burman to-day is a much wealthier man than he was 25 years ago and for this state of affairs, the Chettiars deserve his share of thanks". The last World War (1939--46) resulted in severe losses for the Chettiars. When Burma was occupied by the Japanese their transaction with India was cut off. The valuable rubber estates and tin mines in Malaysia were greatly damaged as a result of enemy action and by the "Scored earth policy" pursued by the British. Yet they put up with equanimity these big losses and oppression of the enemy in occupied Malaysia in the hope that Allies will reverse the course of events and once again protect their interest.

The banking business of the Nattukkottai Chettiars in Burma, Malaysia and Ceylon have shrunk in recent years. Their business in the countries of Burma and Ceylon have almost ceased due to restrictions imposed by those countries. In Malaysia also their business in banking does not appear to be flourishing as before.

With the development of joint stock-banking there are some problems which affect the free development of their banking practice. Their banking business are not linked closely to the Reserve Bank. Any reasonable stipulation with regard to capital, deposits, regulation of their business activities such as submitting their accounts to audit, furnishing of balance sheets to depositors and lenders may be generally acceptable to indigenous bankers who want rediscounting facilities with the Reserve Bank. But the stipulation on the part of

the Reserve Bank, that the indigenous bankers should keep as reserve a large amount of fluid resources will be entirely unsuitable for them as it means a quick change in the century old banking habits of the community. The Reserve Bank must take into consideration the long standing business habits of these bankers and make a fresh attempt to link them up with it so that the worthiness of the services of the indigenous bankers may be increased.

*Manjaputtur Chettiars* :—The Manjaputtur Chettiars, a subdivision of the caste of Chettiars, are also a group of successful traders, money-lenders and agriculturists and a few among them have extended their trading activities in foreign countries like Malaysia. In the Ramanathapuram District they are found concentrated in the towns of Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, Devakottai, Karaikkudi and Tiruvadanai and in a number of villages in the Paramagudi and Tiruvadanai Taluks.

*The Hundi Merchants* :—The Hundi merchant advances money on cash credit basis, allows hundis to be drawn upon him, receives Hundis for collection and finances trade. The clients of the Hundi merchants are mostly non-agriculturists depending on occupation other than agriculture and only 3 per cent of the customers of Hundi merchants are agriculturists. At present the Hundis are used by the indigenous bankers for financing trade and transmission of funds. The Kallidaikurichi Brahmins of the Tirunelveli District use two kinds of Hundis. They are, (1) Dharsana Hundis and (2) Thavanai Hundis. It should be noted here that the Nattukkottai Chettiars also indulge in Hundi Business. They use four kinds of hundis. They are (1) Dharsana Hundis payable at sight or on demand, (2) the Hundi payable after a specified period, (3) the Hundi bearing current rate (Nadappu) of interest till the date of encashment and (4) the *Thavanai* Hundis called the *Thavanai* deposit letters. All these types of Hundis may be drawn against actual trade transaction or may be created for the purpose of mere transmission of funds. Among the Kallidaikurichi Brahmins, there is a variety of Hundis, having at their back some genuine trade sanction go by the name of *Vasool* Hundis and those which are drawn for the transference of funds go by the name of *Selavu* Hundis.

Dharsana Hundis are payable on demand in the case of the Chettiars within 3 days. But in the case of the Brahmins the direction as to when the Hundi is payable is given in the left hand top corner at the back of Hundis. The period varies between 7 days and 20 days depending upon the distance of various centres of trade. The *Nadappu* Hundis bear interest at the current rate of interest. One feature of the *Nadappu* Hundis is that it is neither payable on demand nor payable on a fixed rate. The drawee of a *Nadappu* Hundi can pay the amount at his own



convenience, provided he continues to pay the interest on the amount of the Hundi. The *Thavanai Hundis* of the Brahmins do not bear interest and those of the Chettiars bear *Thavanai* rate of interest.

The main difference between the Chettiars of Ramanathapuram and the Brahmins of Kallidaikurichi with regard to banking is that the Brahmins do not accept deposits to the extent that the Chettiars do. The Brahmins are more inclined to depend upon their own resources. They give loans to the people on personal security. They do not give loans very much on jewels and mortgages, unlike the Chettiars. It should be pointed out here that while 80 to 90 per cent of the loans of the *Hundi* merchants are productive, the loans of the Chettiars are not so productive. The Kallidaikurichi Brahmins finance inland trade whereas the Chettiars finance foreign trade. These Brahmin bankers do not take up business other than banking business unless forced by unavoidable circumstances and in this they can be distinguished from the Chettiars who always link banking with their other business. The Brahmins of Kallidaikurichi are also unwilling to receive lands and other industrial capital by way of fulfilment of debts outstanding on the failure of a client.

In addition to the above group of bankers, a number of other persons also lend money. The term money-lender denotes a person who does not usually receive deposits and who in ordinary circumstances generally trades with his own resources for financing agriculturists and artisans. The money-lender does not allow cheques or drafts to be drawn upon him in the usual course of business. The indigenous banker, who specialises in *Hundi* business and banking is very reluctant to lend to the agriculturists since the success of that occupation depends upon the regularity of monsoon. So in the rural economy of Ramanathapuram, where the ryots are particularly exposed to vagaries of monsoon, the need for the services of money lender, is keenly felt. Sometimes, the ryots themselves lend money. The money-lender finances primarily cultivation and other needs of agriculture. At times he also deals in produce and combines trade with his money-lending business. Some money-lenders finance the toddy-drawers the cultivation of betel-vine with a view to have a share of the produce. There is a number of classes among the money-lenders eg. the professional money-lender, the ryot money-lender, the trader money-lender, the grocer money-lender and the mandiman<sup>1</sup>.

These money-lenders lend money on promissory notes. But the manner of lending and the purposes for which loans are granted differ from one group to another. Sometimes loans are also given

<sup>1</sup> A mandiman in Ramanathapuram District means a wholesale buyer of paddy for retail trade. His business is to buy paddy at an advantageous rate and sell for earning the profit thereon. He deals in credit as well as cash transaction. He finances agriculture.

in kind by these money-lenders. Such loans are in the form of advances of seed for sowing paddy for domestic consumption etc. Loans in kind are common in villages and particularly among the lower class of agricultural labourers. They organise paddy and rice chit fund, give loans in kind to the agricultural labourers in instalments and collect in kind the loan after the harvests. In remote villages it is rather difficult for the agriculturist to get cash and in many villages the system of barter is in vogue. The money-lenders also finance the people engaged in small scale industries such as mat-weaving and the weaving of coarse cotton fabrics.

Generally, the money-lenders in this District charge 12 per cent interest for loans less than Rs. 25 and 9 per cent interest for loans exceeding Rs. 25.

There is also a group of Mohammedan money-lenders in this District. Their methods of business are substantially different from that of the others. They recognise no insolvency and no circumstance under which the repayment can be delayed.

These indigenous bankers maintain four books for purposes of accounts, the *chittai*—the waste book, the *kuripu* the day book, the balance book and the *paredu* or ledger. They also issue pass-books to the depositors while the *Hundi* merchants close their accounts once in a year. The Nattukkottai Chettiers close their accounts once in three years. These bankers conduct their business in a very simple way.

There are a number of pawnbrokers' shops in almost all places in the district. The statement below shows the number of pawnbrokers' shops division wise in the District :—

| Division.      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | Number of Pawn<br>brokers. |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------------|
| Sivakami       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10                         |
| Ramanathapuram | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42                         |
| Sivaganga      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 44                         |
| Devalkottai    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 51                         |
|                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> 147 <hr/>            |

The introduction of the Gold Control Regulations in the country in 1963 held a tremendous impact on the business of pawnbrokers and other financiers who lend mostly on the security of gold ornaments. Their business considerably dwindled.

But the main weakness of these indigenous bankers is their lack of organisation. The bankers act independently and as separate units. Because of this the reserves of the bankers are widely scattered. There is no unified control of the credit system. Another defect is that commercial bills are not made much use of even in internal trade. Thus there is no connecting link between indigenous banking and joint-stock banking. Cash still plays the major part in transaction of business.

The indigenous institutions for mobilising savings is the chits or the *Kuris*. The chits promote savings and function as mutual loan societies. But their main sphere of activity is said to be confined mostly to the urban classes, particularly people belonging to the lower income group. Though there are local variations the common form of chit is the "Head and Tail" Chit. A number of persons join and subscribe periodically small fixed sums. At the end of every such period lots are drawn and the sum collected is given to the winner of the lot. This procedure is carried on at the end of every period, the previous winners, being excluded from participating in the subsequent drawings of the pool until every one of the members had his withdrawals. Out of this has evolved the discount system of present day. In this system the winner of the pool is not allowed to take the entire amount. A reduction or discount of 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the pool is made and the rest is given to the winner. The reduction or the amount thus discounted is then divided equally among the non-prize winners. Another type of chit, the auction, which is also in vogue, is a variation of the discount system. In this system, the pool is sanctioned at each instalment to the bidder of the highest discount. When competition is keen, the discount may go high as 50 to 60 per cent. This means that for a pool of Rs. 100 the person who bids 60 per cent discount, will be getting only Rs. 40 though he is bound to return the whole amount. In several house-holds the ladies conduct chits for household vessels also. Third variety is called the Prize or the Lottery chit, which is most popular among the working class. This chit fund usually consists of 50 subscribers each subscribing Rs. 2 per mensem. At the end of each month a chit is drawn by lot for 50 months and the winner is paid Rs. 100. Thereafter his connection with the fund ceases altogether. The drawing of chits will go on for 50 months, when the chit fund will be wound up and the stake holders would have paid back to the subscribers who had won no prize the total amount subscribed by each of them without interest.

The importance and activities of the indigenous banks are generally on the decline, particularly due to the stringent provisions of the laws for the regulation of money-lenders, the debt-relief legislations and land reforms. Many of the old indigenous bankers, have restricted their activity or withdrawn from the field and taken to trade.

*Indebtedness—(Rural and Urban):*—It has been said that peasants require credit facilities for three purposes:

(a) Long term credit facilities for permanent improvement like construction of wells, tanks, reclamation of waste lands and dry lands, (b) Intermediate-term facilities for the purchase of cattle, agricultural implements and construction of farm building, (c) Short-term credit facilities for meeting seasonal agricultural expenses during sowing, transplanting and harvesting seasons.

These credit requirements of the agriculturists are supplied by a number of agencies such as village moneylenders, indigenous bankers, commercial banks, Government Co-operative Credit Societies and land mortgage banks. Of these, by far the most important rural credit agencies through all ages have been the village money-lender and the indigenous banker. Though they were serving hard to supply the agricultural credit requirements, they created in the course of their financial activities, the difficult problem of Rural indebtedness. For more than half a century, the problem of rural indebtedness have been investigated by a number of Committees appointed by the Government and they have assessed the volume of the growing indebtedness at various levels.

However much they differ in their estimates, of the volume of rural indebtedness, they arrived at the uniform conclusion that the rural indebtedness was heavy and that it was fast growing.

The growth of indebtedness caused a economic, moral and social degredation. As early as 1875 the Deccan Riots Commission analysed the question of rural indebtedness. It concluded that two-thirds of the debt was secured on the mortgage of land and that the average debt per occupant amounted to Rs. 371. The Famine Commission of 1880, Sir Fredrick Nicholson's Report on the Rural Indebtedness of Madras in 1885, the Famine Commission of 1901, the investigation of Sir Edward MacLagan of 1911, the estimate of indebtedness by M. L. Darling of the Punjab Civil Service bear testimony to the alarming rate of increase of agricultural indebtedness. The Banking Enquiry Committee of 1926--28 after a careful study of the available data relating to indebtedness fixed a total amount of debt in the Madras State at Rs. 150 crores in 1929-30. The Report of Agricultural Indebtedness, 1935 placed in total debt at about Rs. 200 crores.

This debt which was variously estimated at different periods began to cause a heavy real burden during the period of depression of 1933--35, when prices of agricultural commodities registered a fall. During this period the agriculturists had to meet the risk of foreclosure of their loans or leasing their lands to the money-lenders for meeting the arrears of loans due to them. In 1938, the Madras Government passed the Agriculturists' Debt Act. The legislation reduced the rate of interest on the loans raised by the mortgage of land, scaled down the debts and finally wrote off the debts for which the debtor has paid by way of interest and repayment of capital twice the value of the debt raised.

In the year 1946, the Madras Government appointed an Economist to enquire into the rural indebtedness. The enquiry was conducted with a view to assessing the benefit of the debt relief measures undertaken by the Government and also to analyse the effect of the rise of agricultural prices during the Second World

War. The report of the Economist for Enquiry into Rural Indebtedness, 1946 brought out the effect of the War as follows on various class of the agriculturists.

| Class.                   | Per Capita Debt for each Class. |       |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
|                          | 1939                            | 1945  | Percentage fall (−) or rise (+) |
| (1)                      | (2)                             | (3)   | (4)                             |
| Big landholders .. ..    | 188.5                           | 113.3 | —39.9                           |
| Medium landholders .. .. | 78.8                            | 59.4  | —24.6                           |
| Small landholders .. ..  | 42.8                            | 37.6  | —12.3                           |
| Tenants .. ..            | 20.5                            | 21.3  | +4.1                            |
| Landless .. ..           | 5.7                             | 8.3   | +45.6                           |
|                          | 61.0                            | 40.8  | —19.9                           |

The enquiry pointed out that the major part of the benefit indicated by the reduction in debt accrued to big landholders, followed up by medium and small landholders. The debt of the tenants and labourers registered an increase. It also pointed out that agriculturists in relatively more secure and productive regions reduced the indebtedness during the period of general rise in prices while those in extreme south and south east in which this district is located did not have the benefit of reduction in debts.

In those circumstances the Reserve Bank of India have appointed a Committee in 1951 to conduct an All-India Credit Survey. The Committee divided the whole country into thirteen regions of which the region No. 12 called the East Coast consisted of the districts of West Godavary, Chingleput and Ramanathapuram. The Committee classified the purpose and sub-purposes of borrowing as follows :—

| Purpose.                           | Sub-purpose.  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Capital expenditure on farm .. | (i) Purchase of land.<br>(ii) Reclamation of land.<br>(iii) Buildings and other land improvements.<br>(iv) Digging and repair of wells.<br>(v) Development of other irrigation sources.<br>(vi) Laying of new orchards and plantations.<br>(vii) Purchase of implements, machinery and transport equipment.<br>(viii) Purchase of livestock.<br>(ix) Construction of farm houses, barns, cattle-sheds, etc.<br>(x) Other capital investment in agriculture. |

| <i>Purpose.</i>                      | <i>Sub purpose.</i>   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (2) Current expenditure .. ..        | (i) Purchase of land.<br>(ii) Purchase of manure.<br>(iii) Purchase of fodder.<br>(iv) Payment of wages.<br>(v) Payment of land revenue, cess and other charges.<br>(vi) Payment of rent.<br>(vii) Maintenance of irrigation resources (excluding repairs to wells).<br>(viii) Other farm expenses.   |
| (3) Non-farm business expenditure .. | (i) On capital account.<br>(ii) On current account.   |
| (4) Family expenditure .. ..         | (i) Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings.<br>(ii) Purchase of household utensils, furnitures, etc.<br>(iii) Death ceremonies.<br>(iv) Marriage and other ceremonies.<br>(v) Medical expenses.<br>(vi) Other occasional expenditure.<br>(vii) Educational expenses.<br>(viii) Purchase of clothing, shoes, bedding etc.<br>(ix) Other family expenses. |
| (5) Other expenditure .. ..          | (i) Litigation charges.<br>(ii) Repayment of old debts.<br>(iii) Other expenses, if any.  |

The total borrowings of all families according to the survey were distributed as follows among the main purposes \* :—

| <i>Purpose of borrowing.</i>        | <i>Percentage to total.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Capital expenditure on farm .. ..   | 27.8                        |
| Current expenditure on farm .. ..   | 9.3                         |
| Non-farm business expenditure .. .. | 6.6                         |
| Family expenditure .. ..            | 50.2                        |
| Other expenditure .. ..             | 5.7                         |
| More than one purpose .. ..         | 0.4                         |
| Total ..                            | 100.0                       |

According to the enquiry, the average total borrowing for cultivating family was Rs.398 which was borrowed from the following agencies at the rates given below :—

| <i>Agencies.</i>              |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Amount.</i> | <i>Percentage.</i> |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|--------------------|
|                               |    |    |    |    |    | Rs.            |                    |
| Government                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9.1            | 2.3                |
| Co-operatives                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8.9            | 2.2                |
| Relatives                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9.6            | 2.4                |
| Landholders                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1.4            | 0.4                |
| Agricultural money-lenders    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 202.4          | 50.7               |
| Professional money-lenders    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 89.9           | 22.5               |
| Traders and Commercial Agents | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61.8           | 15.5               |
| Commercial Banks              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10.0           | 2.5                |
| Others                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5.8            | 1.5                |
| Total                         |    |    |    |    |    | 398.9          | 100.0              |

At the same time the survey estimated the average debt per family at Rs. 788.2. In this analysis the average borrowing for cultivating family of the east coast region in which Ramanathapuram is recorded is estimated at Rs.305 and the average debt for the non-cultivating family in this region at Rs. 638.5. Perhaps it may be according to the general dictum, the more fertile the land, the greater volume of indebtedness and borrowing.

The survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India reported the fact that agriculturist money-lenders and professional money-lenders and traders and commission agents met the bulk of the credit requirements of the agriculturists and the Government agencies Co-operatives and Commercial banks played a very subordinate role or Rural Credit Agencies.

*The Rural Money-lenders:—*The rural money-lenders may be classified into two groups—resident money-lenders and non-resident money-lenders. We find resident money-lenders in remote villages. In villages near towns there are non-resident money-lenders. Residents in towns moved from village to village advancing credit facilities, to the agriculturists. In the Ramanathapuram District nearly 4 per cent of the villagers are served by resident money-lenders. This fact is revealed by the Rural Credit Survey of the Reserve Bank of India published in 1957. In this district there are no money-lenders advancing loans on the security of grains. Needless to point out that the money lenders are financing the petty credit requirements of agriculturists. But by far the largest supply of credit facilities to the agriculturists is given by the Agriculturist Money-lender who remains in the village, who is himself a cultivator and who is able to spare some of his surplus savings for the benefit of comparatively less well off cultivator in his neighbourhood.

**Urban Money-lenders:**—In most of the region the urban money-lenders, unlike the rural money-lenders do not link cultivation along with their main occupation of money-lending. A large proportion of the urban money-lenders are non-cultivating land-owners. Only a small proportion of the clientele of these money-lenders are agriculturists. The regional distribution of the urban money-lenders and the proportion of total finance made available to agriculturists show the relatively low importance of them in the southern region. The main occupation of the money-lenders is the business of providing credit facilities to the artisan and working classes of the towns.

**Agencies for Credit Supply at Present:**—A number of institutions, private as well as Government owned, offer credit facilities in the district. Some of them do not come under the category of banks but nevertheless perform some of the functions of banks.

**1. Treasuries and Sub-treasuries:**—The treasuries whose primary function is to collect Government dues meet the requirements for local banks and public for fresh currency. The treasuries also provided for the exchange of notes and coins. In place where there is no State Bank, the treasuries serve the holders of the Government promissory notes by providing facilities for safe custody of securities.

The Huzur (headquarters) Treasury of the district is located at the district headquarters, Madurai. Besides there are sub-treasuries in the district at the following fifteen places:—

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aruppakkottai. | 8. Ramanathapuram.  |
| 2. Devakottai.    | 9. Sattur.          |
| 3. Kamudi.        | 10. Sivaganga.      |
| 4. Karoikkundi.   | 11. Sivakasi.       |
| 5. Manamadurai.   | 12. Srivilliputtur. |
| 6. Mudukulattur.  | 13. Tiruppattur.    |
| 7. Paramagudi.    | 14. Tiruvadanai.    |
|                   | 15. Virudhunagar.   |

**The State Bank of India:**—Formerly this was known as the Imperial Bank of India which had been formed by the amalgamation of three Presidency banks in 1921. The name was changed into State Bank of India in 1955 by the State Bank of India Act. This bank is the agent of the Reserve Bank of India and deals with treasury business besides other functions. The Bank helps the farmers and traders by advancing loans, over-drafts and cash credits. In addition, the Bank offers all the services of a commercial bank. The Bank undertakes banking activities like accepting fixed deposits and current account deposits. It grants loans to its customers against approved securities, gold ornaments and agricultural produce. Credit facilities are provided to the industries, large and small against approved security, the latter being financed at specially cheaper rates of interest. It guarantees bills of exchange and discounts them. It sells travellers'



cheques. The Bank negotiates *hundis*, collects cheques, bills, interest and dividend warrants for nominal charge and undertakes standing instruction from customers to make periodical remittance for insurance premia, students fees, club subscription and other such recurring payments in consideration of a small fee. It also undertakes executive and trusteeship business besides the preparation of income-tax returns. It undertakes all kinds of foreign exchange business including issue and encashment of foreign drafts and the opening of ~~takes~~ and export letters of credit and guarantees. It also under import transection in the purchase and sale of Government securities.

With a vast net work of offices (over 1,000) through out India and branches in Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and the United Kingdom, the State Bank of India is in an unrivalled position to offer the widest banking facilities to its constituents. The Bank has correspondents in almost every country with which India has trade connections as also an experienced staff at its branches, to handle foreign exchange business of any description.

The State Bank of India Rupee Traveller's cheques issued in denominations of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 are available at any of the 1,000 offices of the Bank as also from a larger number of designated agencies in India and abroad.

As agents of the Reserve Bank of India, the State Bank of India, conducts the general banking business of the Central and State Governments at most of the places where the Reserve Bank of India do not have a branch of its own. A currency chest and a small coin depot are also maintained at such places to provide facility to all scheduled and non-scheduled banks and the general public, for remittances and exchange. The Bank is also well placed to handle the income tax, estate duty and wealth tax returns and claims on behalf of its constituents and to act as Executors and Trustees.

**Medium Term Loans:**—The Bank will consider applications for medium term loans to approved industrial undertakings for a period upto 7 years. Loans will ordinarily be granted for acquisition of land, buildings, plant and machinery for the purpose of setting up new units or expanding production in existing undertakings, and for effecting modernisation and or renovation in existing plants for improving the quality of the products or reducing production costs.

The borrowers will be required to furnish security in the form of a first charge on their existing fixed assets viz. land, buildings, plant and machinery together with the fixed assets to be acquired with the proceeds of the Bank's loan and from other sources. The Bank's loan may be repaid in agreed instalments over a period of not more than seven years.

The Bank is also in a position to grant loans on instalment credit basis to those engaged in industrial activity as distinct from trading for purchase of new equipment or machinery against the security of a hypothecation charge over the equipment machinery proposed to be purchased, together with a guarantee from one or more acceptable parties and or an equitable mortgage over the borrowers' unencumbered immovable properties and or a charge over the borrowers' other unencumbered assets as may be deemed necessary by the Bank. The Bank's loan may be repaid in monthly, quarterly and annual instalments within a period of not more than 5 years.

Prospective borrowers may approach the nearest Branch L. H. O. of the Bank and obtain the standard form of application for medium term loans or instalment credit loans.

Advances are also made on the production of warehouse receipts issued by the Central State Warehousing Corporations in respect of goods deposited with them.

*Industrial Advances (Short term):*—These loans are advanced to industrial concerns for the purpose of assisting production, carrying inventory and meeting seasonal needs for short term working capital requirements, against the security of raw materials, stock-in-progress and to a certain extent, manufactured goods, etc.

The assistance provided by the State Bank of India to various co-operatives and allied institutions can be broadly classified into four categories :—

- (i) General facilities, such as remittance facilities, concessional rates for collection of cheques, etc.
- (ii) Provision of credit facilities to marketing and processing societies.
- (iii) Provision of credit facilities against warehouse receipts.
- (iv) Finance for Land Mortgage Banks.

One of the developmental activities undertaken by the Bank is the provision of credit facilities to small-scale industries. A scheme for the provision of credit facilities to small-scale industries was evolved and was put into operation in a pilot basis in April 1956. The essence of the scheme was close co-ordination in the activities of the various agencies associated with the scheme viz., the State Industries Department, the State Financial Corporation, the Small Industries service Institute and the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. The scheme was found to work successfully and has since been extended to all Branches of the Bank. The Bank is in a position to extend credit facilities to Small-scale units for working capital finance under a liberalised scheme. It has also decided to grant medium term advances to such small-scale units which already have borrowing arrangements with the Bank

for sometime past and require further accommodation for purpose of expansion, renovation, etc. Under a special agreement with the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, the Bank is in a position to advance upto 100 per cent of the value of raw materials (i.e. without the requirement of deposit of margin) purchased by Small-scale units for the execution of Government and other contracts obtained through the good offices of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited.

**Banks in the District:**—The table below gives a list of the scheduled and non-scheduled banks operating in the District and the various places in the District where they have branches.

| <i>Name of the Bank.</i>         | <i>Scheduled or non-scheduled.</i> | <i>Head office of the Bank.</i> | <i>Branches of the Bank in the District.</i>  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| (1)                              | (2)                                | (3)                             | (4)   |
| 1. State Bank of India ..        | Scheduled ..                       | ..                              | Aruppukkottai.<br>Karaikkudi.<br>Mantapam (Pay Office).<br>Rajapalayam.<br>Ramanathapuram.<br>Sattur.<br>Sivaganga.<br>Srivilliputtur.<br>Virudhunagar. |
| 2. Indian Bank Limited ..        | Do. ..                             | Madras ..                       | Devakottai.<br>Karaikkudi.<br>Pallathur.<br>Rajapalayam.<br>Sivaganga.<br>Tiruppattur.<br>Virudhunagar.   |
| 3. Indian Overseas Bank Limited. | Do.                                | Do. ..                          | Devakottai.<br><br>Karaikkudi.<br>Kila Sevalpatti.<br>Sivaganga.<br>Sivakasi.   |
| 4. Canara Bank Limited ..        | Do. ..                             | Mangalore ..                    | Aruppukkottai.<br>Dhalavaipuram.<br>Karaikkudi.<br>Paramagudi.<br>Sattur.<br>Sivakasi.<br>Srivilliputtur.<br>Virudhunagar.                              |
| 5. Bank of Karaikkudi Limited.   | Non-Scheduled.                     | Karaikkudi.                     | Devakottai.<br>Karaikkudi.  |
| 6. Bank of Madurai Limited.      | Scheduled                          | Madurai ..                      | Devakottai.<br>Kandanur.<br>Karaikkudi<br>Nattarasankottai.<br>Paramagudi.  |

| <i>Name of the Bank</i>   | <i>Scheduled or non-scheduled.</i> | <i>Head office of the Bank.</i> | <i>Branches of the Bank in the district.</i>                             |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| (1)   | (2)                                | (3)                             | (4)  |
| 7. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, (formerly Nadar Bank Limited). | Scheduled ..                       | Tuticorin ..                    | Sivakasi.<br>Virudhunagar.   |
| 8. Rajapalayam Commercial Bank Limited.                             | Non-scheduled                      | Rajapalayam.                    | Rajapalayam.<br>Srivilliputtur.  |
| 9. The South India Bank Limited.                                    | Scheduled ..                       | Tirunelveli ..                  | Rajapalayam.<br>Virudhunagar.  |
| 10. The Central Bank of India Limited.                              | Do. ..                             | Bombay ..                       | Karaikkudi (Post).<br>Virudhunagar (P.O.),                               |
| 11. Syndicate Bank Limited ..                                       | Do. ..                             | Udipi ..                        | Devakottai.  |
| 12. Chettinad Mercantile Bank Limited.                              | Non-Scheduled.                     | Karaikkudi..                    | Karaikkudi.<br>Kottaiyur.<br>Singampunari.<br>Sivaganga.<br>Tiruppattur. |
| 13. Punjab National Bank Limited.                                   | Scheduled ..                       | ..                              | Karaikkudi.<br>Ramanathapuram  |
| 14. United Commercial Bank Limited.                                 | Do. ..                             | Calcutta ..                     | Karaikkudi.  |
| 15. Pathinen Grama Arya Vyasa Bank Private Limited.                 | Non-Scheduled.                     | ..                              | Ramanathapuram   |

The Indian Overseas Bank had four branches in the District in 1963. The total deposits in the District was Rs. 210,00,000, total advances, Rs. 17,00,000 and gross income Rs. 4,00,000 (all as on 31st December, 1963.) One more branch of the Bank has also been opened in the District recently. The Bank offers facilities of personal loans, gift cheques and rupee travellers cheques in addition to normal banking activities. There are 10,206 depositors in the branches of this bank in Ramanathapuram District.

The Indian Bank Limited has seven branch offices in Ramanathapuram District, at Devakottai, Karaikkudi, Pallathur, Rajapalayam, Sivaganga, Tiruppattur and Virudhunagar. All kinds of banking business including foreign exchange are transacted by this bank.

The Canara Bank has eight branches in the District at the following places :—Sivakasi, Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Aruppukkottai, Paramagudi, Karaikkudi, Virudhunagar and Dhalavaipuram. These branches became a part of Canara Bank after the merger of Pandyan Bank Limited with the former in 1963. In addition to usual banking services, this bank offers the Executor and Trustee

service. Foreign Exchange Transactions, assisting in the preparation of Income-Tax return, etc. The eight branches have got total deposits of Rs. 34.8 lakhs under the following categories, fixed, savings, current and recurring (as on the end of 1963.) The total advances of the branches over the same period is to the tune of Rs. 32.03 lakhs.

There are other smaller banks also catering to the financial needs of Ramanathapuram District. The Rajapalayam Commercial Bank Private Limited, with one branch at Srivilliputtur and head office at Rajapalayam, has an authorised capital of Rs. 6,00,000. The Tamilnad Mercantile Bank at Sivakasi has 1,969 depositors and helps the fire works and litho industries financially. The same bank has a branch at Virudhunagar with 817 depositors. The oil mills and cotton mills of the area are benefited by its services. The Bank of Karaikkudi Limited has offices at Karaikkudi and Devakottai with 3,099 and 545 depositors, respectively. The Bank of Madurai has branches at Paramagudi and Nattarasankottai with 774 and 1,040 depositors respectively. The services of these two branches are mainly utilised by the farmers. The Bank of Madurai offers special facilities for issuing guarantees for car purchases and for share transfers. The South India Bank Limited (Tirunelveli) has a branch at Rajapalayam with 505 depositors. The Central Bank of India Limited has a branch at Karaikkudi with 468 depositors.

The following are the Co-operative Urban Banks in the District, which conduct ordinary commercial banking transactions.

1. Tirupattur Co-operative Urban Bank, Ltd.,
2. Karaikkudi Co-operative Town Bank Ltd.,
3. Rajapalayam Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
4. Sivakasi Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
5. Aruppukkottai Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
6. Paramagudi Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
7. Ramswaram Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
8. Manamadurai Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
9. Sattur Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
10. Ramanathapuram Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
11. Kottaiyoor Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
12. North Srivilliputtur Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
13. Bhoopathy Rajah Co-operative Credit Bank, Rajapalayam
14. Kamudi Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
15. Devakottai Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
16. Abiramam Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. and
17. Ilayangudi Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.

**Co-operative Credit Societies:**—Co-operative Societies provide the bulk of the banking facilities to the rural area. There are a number of varieties of such societies and the main ones are (1) Agricultural Credit Societies, (2) Multi-purpose Societies and (3) Marketing (or loan and sale or purchase and sale) Societies.

Agriculture has always stood in need of credit and the agriculturists have always found it necessary to borrow for cultivation expenses, for maintaining their families and if they are already indebted, for paying the ever-increasing interests on their debts. The money-lenders have been the only source from which the needy farmers have been borrowing. These money-lenders have often been charging usurious rate of interest and they often went to the extent of depriving the farmers of their lands and other properties ultimately. In 1935, it was estimated that more than 90 percent of the credit requirements of the agriculturists were met by the money-lenders<sup>1</sup>. According to the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee's report, private credit agencies taken together (excluding commercial bank) have supplied about 93 per cent of the total amount borrowed by the cultivators.

The Government have taken various methods to relieve the farmers from their indebtedness. The most important of these methods is the formation of agricultural credit societies. Before dealing with the societies, the history of the credit-relief measures may be noted here. In 1883, the Land Improvement Loans Act was passed under which long term-loans repayable in 20 to 30 years at cheap interest for effecting improvements in the cultivation facilities. In 1884, was passed the Agriculturists Loans Act under which short-term and medium-term loans can be granted for the purchase of seed grain, manure and other materials necessary for farming. In 1818, the Usurious Loans Act which empowered the Government to stop recovery of usurious rates of interest, was passed. The Madras Debtor Protection Act, which fixed a reasonable maximum rate of interest and prescribed an improved system of keeping account for the money lenders, was passed in 1935. In the same year the Agriculturists' Loans Act of 1884, was amended so as to permit the grant of loan to agriculturists for discharging their debts and for scaling down their debts by amicable adjustments with creditors through Special Loan Officers. The Madras Debt Conciliation Act was passed in 1936 and this provided for voluntary settlement of debts by bringing together the agriculturist debtors and their creditors through the medium of Special Conciliation Boards. The Usurious Loans Act was amended in the same year in order to make reduced rates of interest effective. In 1938, came the Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act for rendering substantial relief to the indebted farmers by scaling down their existing debts, by reducing the rate of interest on future debts and by writing off their rents due to the Zamindars and other land holders. The Takkavi loans granted under the Acts of 1883 and 1884 have not become popular mainly because of the delays and elaborate enquiries and also because of the insufficiency of the loans granted. So also the other acts have their own flaws and the total relief was very little compared to the amount required by the ryots. Even the Agriculturists'

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1. *Report on Agricultural Indebtedness, 1935*—Page 49.

Relief Act of 1938 is said to have failed in its object and is said to have curtailed the supply of rural credit. In the field of small scale industries also the problem of debt was becoming acute. The State Aid to Industries Act of 1922 under which Loans are granted, is said to have failed to touch even the fringe of the problem.

*The Structure of Co-operative Banks:*—In 1892, the Government had appointed Sir Frederick Nicholson as a Special Officer to enquire how far the methods of co-operation adopted in Europe could be adopted in Madras to relieve rural indebtedness.<sup>1</sup> He recommended the formation of rural co-operative societies to provide rural credit on reasonable terms. After a few years the Government of India, on the recommendations of the Committee on Co-operative Law, passed the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (1904). This Act envisaged the formation of "small and simple co-operative societies for small and simple folk with simple needs and requiring small sums only" for short periods. After the passing of this Act several co-operative societies sprang up. This Act was replaced by another Act in 1912 which made provision for the formation of central credit societies and co-operative institutions of all types and for all purposes, co-operative societies of various kinds such as Marketing Societies, the Weavers' Societies and the Consumers' Stores. The Montague-Chelmsford reforms brought co-operation under the provincial Government and there was a rapid spread of co-operative movement. In 1917, the Madras Central Urban Bank was converted into the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank. But these banks were not able to grant long-term loans to the agriculturists. So the formation of land Mortgage Banks on co-operative basis was sanctioned in 1925 for granting such loans. These banks were authorised to float debentures on the security of the lands mortgaged to them by individual borrowers. But as each one of these banks issued its own debentures and caused confusion and reluctance on the part of the public to purchase them, in 1929, on the recommendation of the Townsend Committee, the Central Land Mortgage Bank was organised for the centralised issues of debentures and for financing the primary land mortgage banks. In the subsequent years the land mortgage banks and non-credit societies expanded very much. In 1932, The Madras Co-operative Societies Act (Act VI) remedying the defects of the Central Act of 1912 was passed and in 1934 another Act which regulated the working of the land mortgage banks was passed. In 1939, the Vijayaraghavachariar Committee which made several suggestions for the improvement of co-operative societies was formed. After the II World War, due to the changed nature of the economy, several new types of co-operatives began to spring up. The introduction of prohibition called for new opportunities for the erstwhile toddy-tappers and

1. Report regarding the possibility of introducing land and agricultural bank into the Madras Presidency 1895—Volumes I and II.

this factor gave a fillip to co-operative movement. Meanwhile the Government of India appointed two committees, Gadgil Committee (The Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee) and Saraiya Committee (the Co-operative Planning Committee) to suggest post-war development of co-operation and their recommendations were considered by the Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies held in Madras in 1947. All these recommendations were implemented by the Government.

The Madras State Co-operative Bank and the Madras Central Land Mortgage Bank are at the top of the structure of Co-operative Credit. The structure includes various central banks, the urban banks, the primary land mortgage banks, the agricultural credit societies, the employees credit societies and other miscellaneous societies. The Madras State Co-operative Bank gets its funds by way of borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India and from deposits and passes on these on to the primary agricultural credit societies and marketing societies through the Central Co-operatives. The Central Land Mortgage Bank raised funds from the public in the shape of 20 years debentures guaranteed by Government at rates consistent with the prevailing market conditions.

The Srivilliputtur Co-operative Banking Union Ltd., was registered and started on its work on 31st July 1920 with its area of operations confined to the taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur. It functioned as a Central Bank to the Societies in these two taluks. The other taluks were served by the Madurai-Ramanathapuram-District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., which had the entire Madurai District and the taluks of Ramanathapuram District other than Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. The taluks in the Ramanathapuram District were bifurcated from the Madurai-Ramanathapuram Co-operative Central Bank and the Srivilliputtur Co-operative Banking Union was renamed as Ramanathapuram District Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd., Madurai, having in its area of operation the whole of the Ramanathapuram District and started on its work on 28th November 1945.

#### THE CHIEF FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL BANK ARE :

1. to organise, develop, supervise the co-operative societies and to finance them,
2. to receive deposits and loans,
3. to start branches within the District, and
4. to arrange to hold periodical conference, propoganda and disseminate knowledge of co-operation.

As against 563 members affiliated to the Ramanathapuram Central Co-operative Bank with the working capital of Rs. 25 lakhs at the beginning of the Bank there are 1,739 members affiliated to



the Bank with the working capital exceeding 3.56 crores as on 30th June 1964. The various types of societies affiliated to the Bank are as follows as on 30th June 1964:—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. (a) Agricultural Credit Societies (Unlimited Liability) .. ..     | 989   |
| (b) Other Credit Societies .. .. .                                   | 8     |
| 2. Agricultural Bank—Limited Liability .. .. .                       | 20    |
| 3. Rural Banks—Limited Liability .. .. .                             | 2     |
| 4. (a) Primary Marketing Societies (including marketing federation). | 12    |
| (b) Ramanathapuram District Supply and Marketing Societies.          | 1     |
| 5. Agricultural Improvement Societies .. .. .                        | 12    |
| 6. Fishermen Co-operative Societies .. .. .                          | 17    |
| 7. Milk Supply Societies .. .. .                                     | 150   |
| 8. Rural Stores Societies .. .. .                                    | 37    |
| 9. Urban and Semi-Urban Banks .. .. .                                | 18    |
| 10. Employees' urban Co-operative Societies .. .. .                  | 56    |
| 11. Co-operative Stores .. .. .                                      | 9     |
| 12. Students' Co-operative Stores .. .. .                            | 30    |
| 13. Semi-Urban Co-operative Stores .. .. .                           | 16    |
| 14. Weavers' Co-operative Societies .. .. .                          | 85    |
| 15. Special type of Societies .. .. .                                | 89    |
| 16. Co-operative Farming Societies —                                 |       |
| (a) Land Colonisation Societies .. .. .                              | 3     |
| (b) Tenant Farming Societies .. .. .                                 | 5     |
| (c) Joint Farming Societies .. .. .                                  | 15    |
| 17. Co-operative Credit Unions .. .. .                               | 38    |
| 18. Co-operative Supervising Unions .. .. .                          | 10    |
| 19. Individual members .. .. .                                       | 113   |
| 20. Madras State Government .. .. .                                  | 1     |
| 21. Co-operative Spinning Mills at Srivilliputtur .. .. .            | 1     |
| 22. Co-operative Printing Press .. .. .                              | 1     |
| 23. District Washermen Society .. .. .                               | 1     |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 1,739 |

The progress made by the Central Bank in recent years is given below :—

|                                     | As on              |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                     | 30th June 1947.    | 30th June 1953. | 30th June 1964. |
| 1. Membership (i) Individuals .. .. | 136                | 136             | 113             |
| (ii) Societies .. .. .              | 559                | 770             | 1,626           |
|                                     | (Rupees in lakhs.) |                 |                 |
| 2. Share capital .. .. .            | 5.27               | 9.31            | 42.11           |
| 3. Loans Outstanding .. .. .        | 127.00             | 96.52           | 287.12          |
| 4. Deposit and Borrowings .. .. .   | 58.63              | 88.53           | 30.84           |
| 5. Reserve Fund .. .. .             | 1.23               | 3.54            | 9.41            |
| 6. Profit earned .. .. .            | 0.38               | 1.15            | 4.39            |

The most important and the most numerous of the primary societies is the Agricultural Credit Societies. They obtain their funds chiefly as loans from the Central Banks. Credit is obtained on the joint security of the members who are all generally residents of one village. A Panchayat elected by the General Body of the society is in charge of executive administration and the panchayat members elect a president and a secretary from among themselves. These societies in the normal course of events, confine their activities to the granting of loans. But during the Second World War many of these societies undertook the purchase and distribution of commodities. In February 1949, a new scheme was introduced by the Government of India according to which several of them have undertaken multi-purpose activities such as the supply of agricultural, industrial and domestic requirements of the members, the marketing of their produce, the collection and sale of milk and promotion of social activities. They also at times distribute chemical fertilisers, manure mixtures, pesticides, iron and steel and other agricultural implements.

The financial needs of the middle class and lower middle class such as the artisans, traders and public servants are attended to by the Non-agricultural Credit Societies, the Urban Banks, the Employees Credit Societies. They raise money chiefly from the deposits of the members and also borrows to a small extent from the Central Bank as warranted by the occasion. They issue loan on personal security on the mortgage of immovable property, on the security of non-agricultural and industrial produce, on agricultural produce where there are no marketing societies, on jewels and on insurance policies.

*The Co-operative Societies in the District:*—The Village Credit Societies, Agricultural Banks and Rural Banks are undertaking the supply of Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term Credit to their members for agricultural operations and land improvement purposes. The progress in this directions is indicated below with particulars at the beginning and the end of the Second Five-Year Plan and during the Third Five-Year Plan.

|  | As on                 |                       |                       |                       |                    |                    |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | 30th<br>June<br>1956. | 30th<br>June<br>1960. | 30th<br>June<br>1961. | 30th<br>June<br>1962. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
|  | (IN PER CENT.)        |                       |                       |                       |                    |                    |
| 1. Percentage of villages covered by co-operatives.  | 39                    | 84                    | 100                   | 100                   | 100                | 100                |
| 2. Percentage of population served by co-operatives. | 14                    | 53                    | 51                    | 70                    | 77.39              | 85                 |

|   | As on                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | 30th June 1956.        | 30th June 1960. | 30th June 1961. | 30th June 1962. | 30th June 1963. | 30th June 1964. |
|   | (RUPEES IN LAKHS).     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| 3. Approximate credit needs of the cultivators in the District. | 385                    | 385             | 385             | 385             | 385             | 385             |
| 4. Amount of agricultural credit provided by co-operatives.     | 47                     | 87              | 128             | 154             | 186.01          | 220.41          |
|   | (FIGURES IN PER CENT.) |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| 5. Percentage of credit needs met by the co-operatives.         | 12                     | 22.6            | 33              | 40              | 48              | 58              |

It may thus be seen that all the 1,607 villages in the Ramanathapuram District have been covered by co-operatives even at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan and nearly 85 per cent of the rural population is served by the co-operatives. There are 837 credit societies excluding 152 adjuncts to credit unions, 20 Agricultural Banks, 2 Rural Banks and 38 Credit Unions with a total membership of about 1.8 lakhs as on 30th June 1964.

*Primary Agricultural Credit Societies-Villages Credit Societies:—*  
The Progress made in the formation of Village Credit Societies and the progress of business in all these societies are noted below :—

|                           | As on 30th June 1947. |     | As on 30th June 1953. |        | As on 30th June 1963. |         | As on 30th June 1964. |     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----|
| (1)                       | (2)                   | (3) | (4)                   | (5)    | (6)                   | (7)     | (8)                   | (9) |
| 1. Number of societies    | ..                    | ..  | 418                   | 550    | 824                   | 837     |                       |     |
| 2. Membership             | ..                    | ..  | 25,284                | 44,337 | 118,572               | 132,994 |                       |     |
|                           | (RUPEES IN LAKHS.)    |     |                       |        |                       |         |                       |     |
| 3. Paid-up share capital  | ..                    | ..  | 4.13                  | 7.45   | 22.48                 | 31.9    |                       |     |
| 4. Reserve Fund           | ..                    | ..  | 1.71                  | 3.14   | 3.40                  | 3.0     |                       |     |
| 5. Deposit and borrowings | ..                    | ..  | 27.70                 | 34.33  | 143.05                | 143.6   |                       |     |
| 6. Loan issued            | ..                    | ..  | 25.42                 | 12.81  | 14.35                 | 151.75  |                       |     |

In 1964, the average membership of the society was 147 and the average loan issued for members was Rs. 121.

*Agricultural Banks and Rural Banks:—*Agricultural Banks were registered only during the year 1957 by amalgamating two or three Agricultural Credit Societies. As on 30th June 1964, there were 20 Agricultural Banks and 2 Rural Banks in the District. They

had 27,201 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 14.01 lakhs including Rs. 2.00 lakhs contributed by the Government. The loans issued by the banks to their members amounted to Rs. 50.64 lakhs during 1963-64. Fertilisers, seeds and agricultural implements were also supplied by the Banks. The total reserve fund in respect of Agricultural Banks held on 30th June 1963 was Rs. 0.83 lakhs.

**Credit Unions:**—Credit Unions to act as Agency for 2 or 3 adjunct Credit Societies were formed and registered in this district only during the year 1960. This kind of institution is not being organised at present. There are 38 Credit Unions functioning in the district as on 30th June 1963 with a membership of 20,367 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 6.42 lakhs. During 1963-64, they issued loans to their members to the extent of Rs. 19.06 lakhs.

**Primary Land Mortgage Banks:**—During the year 1947-48, there was one Primary Land Mortgage Bank in this district at Srivilliputtur with the area of operations covering Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks. Several new banks were organised to cater to the needs of other peoples in the remaining taluks of this district. In 1963 there were 7 Primary Land Mortgage Banks in this district covering the entire area of the district. These Banks rendered useful service to the agricultural population of the area and there has been uniform progress as shown below :—

| As on                      |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                            | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS.)         |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 1. Number of Banks .. .. . | 1                  | 1                  | 7                  | 7                  |
| 2. Membership .. .. .      | 747                | 1,048              | 6,179              | 7,421              |
| 3. Share capital .. .. .   | 1.85               | 4.04               | 1.94               | 2.49               |
| 4. Loans issued .. .. .    | 5.35               | 82                 | 9.13               | 11.32              |

**Non-agricultural Credit Societies:**—The progress achieved in formation of Co-operative Urban Banks, Employees' Societies and other non-agricultural Societies are given below :—

| As on                             |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                   | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
| (1)                               | (2)                | (3)                | (4)                | (5)                |
| 1. Urban Banks .. .. .            | 12                 | 18                 | 18                 | 18                 |
| 2. Employees' Societies .. .. .   | 12                 | 24                 | 43                 | 56                 |
| 3. Other Credit Societies .. .. . | 16                 | 11                 | 11                 | 8                  |

The progress made by the above institutions is given below :—

|            |    |    |    |    | As on              |                    |                    |                    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|            |    |    |    |    | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
|            |    |    |    |    | (2)                | (3)                | (4)                | (5)                |
| 1. Members | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13,906             | 23,932             | 47,852             | 50,559             |

(RUPEES IN LAKHS.)

|                                       |    |    |    |    |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2. Share capital                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.73  | 5.93  | 6.98  | 10.56 |
| 3. Loans issued                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16.82 | 26.47 | 62.07 | 78.12 |
| 4. Loans outstanding against members. |    |    |    |    | 14.50 | 22.75 | 43.88 | 53.02 |

*Co-operative Marketing Societies:*—The progress achieved in the formation of Co-operative Marketing Societies and the business done by them are given below :—

|                        |    |    |    |    | As on              |                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                        |    |    |    |    | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
|                        |    |    |    |    | (2)                | (3)                | (4)                | (5)                |
| 1. Number of societies | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9                  | 9                  | 12                 | 12                 |
| 2. Membership          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,709              | 4,123              | 12,110             | 14,263             |

(RUPEES IN LAKHS.)

|                              |    |    |    |    |      |       |      |       |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|-------|------|-------|
| 3. Paid-up share capital     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.55 | 0.78  | 3.15 | 3.88  |
| 4. Loans issued              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.47 | 4.13  | 8.38 | 24.33 |
| 5. Value of produce marketed | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.36 | 16.46 | 7.91 | 19.04 |

The Government have taken shares in the Marketing Societies to the extent of Rs. 1.01 lakhs. Seven of the Marketing Societies have constructed godowns with financial assistance from the Government by way of loans and subsidies during 1962-63.

(b) The Srivilliputtur Uganda Cotton Growers' Co-operative Marketing Society and the Aruppukkottai Co-operative Sale Society owning Ginning Factories are undertaking the processing activities of cotton. The Thiruppathur Co-operative Marketing Society has installed a groundnut decorticator with State aid and it is working satisfactorily. The Srivilliputtur Cotton Growers' Society has successfully implemented the Seed Multiplication Scheme.

*Co-operative Farming Societies:*—In 1963, there was one Better Farming Society with 16 members and a share capital of Rs 285. There were 5 Tenant Farming Societies consisting of 178 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs.3,800. The members have taken up 226 acres of wet and 161.14 acres of dry lands for cultivation dur in

1963-64. There were 15 Joint Farming Co-operative Societies as on 30th June 1964. The number of members and paid-up share capital of the societies were 630 and Rs. 16 lakhs respectively. Members have pooled their lands with the total extent of 1,202.08 acres. Government loan of Rs. 4.23 lakhs were sanctioned to the societies for the purchase of agricultural implements pumpsets, bulls, carts and for the construction of godowns, cattle shed and wells. The Government have also guaranteed the Central Bank towards the issue of loans and cash credit to these Societies.

*Agricultural Improvement Societies:*—The progress made in the formation and the development of business by the Agricultural Improvement Societies are given below :—

|   | As on           |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | 30th June 1947. | 30th June 1953. | 30th June 1963. | 30th June 1964. |
| (1)   | (2)             | (3)             | (4)             | (5)             |
| 1. Number of societies .. .. .                                    | 12              | 13              | 12              | 12              |
| 2. Membership .. .. .   | 755             | 1,295           | 1,573           | 1,722           |
| (FIGURES IN RUPEES).  |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| 3. Paid-up share capital .. .. .                                  | 12,699          | 20,938          | 19,067          | 15,000          |
| 4. Value of agricultural implements seeds and manure distributed. | 10,590          | 86,749          | 40,674          | ..              |

*Co-operative Milk Supply Societies:*— The progress made in the formation and the development of business by the Co-operative Milk Supply Societies are given below :—

|  | As on           |                 |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 30th June 1947. | 30th June 1953. | 30th June 1963. | 30th June 1964. |
| (1)                                    | (2)             | (3)             | (4)             | (5)             |
| 1. Number of Societies .. .. .         | 5               | 19              | 124             | 150             |
| 2. Membership .. .. .                  | 1,709           | 5,022           | 18,615          | 20,673          |
| (FIGURES IN RUPEES). RUPEES IN LAKHS.  |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| 3. Paid-up share capital .. .. .       | 28,322          | 68,210          | 3               | 4.11            |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS. )                    |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| 4. Value of milk purchased .. .. .     | 3.75            | 12.84           | 35.19           | 44.45           |
| 5. Value of milk and by-products sold. | 4.19            | 13.08           | 42.12           | 49.47           |

Besides arranging for the profitable sale of milk of their members the Milk Supply Societies also distributed cattle feed to them. During the year 1947-48, they distributed cattle feed to the value of Rs. 15,861. During 1962-63 the Milk Supply Societies distributed cattle feed to the value of Rs. 73,007 at reasonable rates,

The Virudhunagar Co-operative Milk Supply Society is one of the best working societies in this District. It is running Coffee Stalls and Ice-Cream Parlours with a view to dispose of its surplus milk profitably. Under the Five-Year Plan, the Government have sanctioned financial assistance to run a salvage farm in a compact area consisted of 130.90 acres of lands at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.07 lakhs. The farm can undertake the salvage of 97 dry animals at a time besides arising fodder crops in the farm. With a view to improve the breed of cattle the society is maintaining a Sindhi Bull and three Murrah Buffaloes. The Government have sanctioned a post of Stock Assistant to the society to maintain the salvage farm free of cost.

The Srivilliputtur Co-operative Milk Supply Society and the Manamadurai Co-operative Milk Supply Society are maintaining green fodder farms. The scheme will be implemented in 90 acres of lands by the Srivilliputtur Co-operative Milk Supply Society and in 16.40 acres of lands by the Manamadurai Milk Supply Co-operative Society. The Government have also sanctioned necessary financial assistance to these societies by way of loan and subsidy. The Karaikkudi Milk Supply Society has been sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1,400 and a subsidy of Rs. 14,000 for the establishment of cattle feed manufacturing unit during the year 1963-64 and steps are being taken to establish the unit.

*Weavers' Co-operative Societies:*—The progress made in the formation of Weavers' Co-operative Societies including Industrial Weavers' Co-operative Societies and the business done by them are furnished below :—

|                          |    |    |       | As on              |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|----|----|-------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                          |    |    |       | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
| 1. Number of societies   | .. | .. | 27    | 37                 | 90                 | 84                 |                    |
| 2. Membership            | .. | .. | 6,187 | 9,647              | 24,573             | 22,122             |                    |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS.)       |    |    |       |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 3. Paid up share capital | .. | .. | 2.20  | 5.30               | 13.74              | 14.11              |                    |
| 4. Value of production   | .. | .. | 32.18 | 16.09              | 81.24              | 94.57              |                    |
| 5. Value of sales        | .. | .. | 35.03 | 24.15              | 103.45             | 107.70             |                    |
| 6. Reserve Fund          | .. | .. | 3.04  | 9.27               | 25.76              | ..                 |                    |

It has to be mentioned that out of 40,816 looms in the area, 22,492 looms are in the co-operative fold which works out more than 50 per cent.

The Ramanathapuram Co-operative Spinning Mills, Limited, Srivilliputtur, had 152 individuals and 744 societies as members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 25.06 lakhs including the State

Share Capital of Rs. 12 lakhs as on 30th June 1963. The mills commenced production with 3,584 spindles in 1961. In 1963 it worked with 12,096 spindles. The present production of yarn in the mills is 8 bales per day. The mill has earned a net profit of Rs. 3.55 lakhs after charging the depreciation for the year 1963-64.

The business done by the Primary Co-operative Stores including student Co-operative Stores are furnished below :—

|                          |    |    |        | <i>As on</i>       |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|----|----|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                          |    |    |        | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
| 1. Number of stores ..   | .. | .. | 113    | 121                | 88<br>(58+30)      | 92<br>(62+30)      |                    |
| 2. Number of members     | .. | .. | 47,278 | 40,882             | 28,864             | 34,984             |                    |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS)        |    |    |        |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 3. Paid up share capital | .. | .. | 9.47   | 7.00               | 4.12               | 4.56               |                    |
| 4. Sales during the year | .. | .. | 208.76 | 157.82             | 71.48              | 96.30              |                    |

The decrease in business was due to decontrol of prices on important articles and lifting of rationing after the Second World War.

The Ramanathapuram District Co-operative Supply and Marketing Society Limited, Madurai is functioning as a Central Organisation for the supply of consumer articles to the Primary Stores. In 1963, it had 294 co-operative institutions and 2,263 individuals as members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 2.08 lakhs including the State Share Capital of Rs. 25,000. The society effected sales to the extent of Rs. 80.92 lakhs during 1963-64. It earned a net profit of Rs. 48.983 at the end of 1962-63.

The Virudhunagar Co-operative Stores and the Abiramam Co-operative Stores have installed oil crushing machineries with State Loan of Rs. 20,000 each. The Veeracholam Co-operative Stores has installed a coffee grinding machinery with a State Loan of Rs. 4,000. The centrally sponsored scheme was introduced from February 1964 in the municipal towns of Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar and Aruppukkottai in the District.

*Co-operative Housing Societies:*—The progress made in the formation of various kinds of Housing Societies and the business done by them are furnished below :—

|                          |    |    |    | <i>As on</i>       |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                          |    |    |    | 30th June<br>1947. | 30th June<br>1953. | 30th June<br>1963. | 30th June<br>1964. |
| 1. Number of societies   | .. | .. |    | 8                  | 10                 | 47                 | 44                 |
| 2. Membership            | .. | .. | .. | 232                | 619                | 2,737              | 2,465              |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS).       |    |    |    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| 3. Paid up share capital | .. | .. |    | 0.20               | 2.06               | 11.28              | 12.26              |



In order to solve the housing problem of members of industrial organisations three Industrial House Building Societies were formed. They consisted of 321 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs.1.29 lakhs. These societies have constructed 238 houses worth of Rs. 8.37 lakhs. The Sivakasi Coronation Litho Workers Industrial Co-operative House Building Society which had constructed 50 houses for its workers was awarded the State Shield during 1959-60, being adjudged as the best Society in the maintenance of colony. The Rajapalayam Industrial Workers Housing Society has constructed 188 houses.

*House Mortgage Banks* :—In 1963 there were two House Mortgage Banks in this District. They had 900 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 0.91 lakh. During the year 1963-64 loans to the extent of Rs. 85,600 were issued to members for repairs to houses and improvements, besides discharge of prior debts.

*Labour Contract Co-operative Societies*:—During the year 1951-52 there was only one Labour Contract Society named Dhanushkodi Labour Contract Society. It had on its roll 87 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 5,870. As on 30th June 1964 there were 11 Labour Contract Co-operative Societies functioning in this District. They had 1,129 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 24,406. The Labour Contract Societies were able to secure contract for Rs. 4.70 lakhs and executed contract works during the year.

*Washermen Co-operative Society*:—The Ramanathapuram District Washermen Co-operative Society was started only on 12th December 1962. It had 320 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 6,710. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was disbursed to the Society as Government loan.

*Cattle Breeding Society*:—Only one Cattle Breeding Co-operative Society is functioning at Watrap in Srivilliputtur Taluk in this District from January 1960. As on 30th June 1963 there were 105 members on its roll with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 1,105. Out of Government subsidy of Rs. 3,000 the Society purchased three Murrah Buffaloes and one Sindhi Bull and entrusted them to their members for maintenance. The animals performed 194 services during the year 1962-63. 96 superior calves were born to animals served by these bulls.

*Health Co-operative Society*:—There were two Health Societies one at Dhalavaipuram and the other at Abiramam. They had 268 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 0.44 lakhs. They had collected subscription of Rs. 770 during the year, 1963-64. 20,366 patients were treated during the year 1963-64 in both these societies. The Dhalavaipuram Health Society has appointed fulltime Medical Officer. The Government has given a subsidy of Rs.2,025 during the year for deficit of income for the year 1962-63 and advanced subsidy

of Rs. 6,000 to meet deficit income for establishment and drugs to Dhalavaipuram Health Society. The main object of the Society is to provide cheap and timely medical relief to its members and others in its area.

*The Full Finance Scheme:*—The scheme was implemented in the Srivilliputtur Firka at first and it was subsequently extended to the whole of Srivilliputtur Block from May 1960. Afterwards the Srivilliputtur Block was bifurcated into two, namely Srivilliputtur and Watrap. The Srivilliputtur Block consists of Srivilliputtur and Malli Firkas and Watrap Block consist of Watrap and Nathampatti Firkas and now the scheme is being implemented in both the blocks. From September 1962, the scheme has been extended to Singampuneri, Tiruvadanai, Paramagudi, Kamudi, Karaipatti and Sivakasi Blocks. From April 1963 onwards the scheme has been further extended to Mantapam, Ramanathapuram Bogalur, Mudukulattur, Kadaladi, Vembakottai and Rajapalayam Blocks. There are 45 supervisors working under the scheme. The chief object of the scheme is to cater to the entire credit needs of the agriculturists in the block areas through co-operatives. Thirty eight credit unions organised in the District in lieu of agricultural banks are functioning now.

*Post Office Savings Banks:*—The Postal Savings Bank is a Government agency created for the purpose of encouragement of thrift and savings. Postal Savings Banks were first started in Presidency Towns between 1833 and 1835 and later on Savings Banks were attached to district treasuries also. The Government of India, runs Savings Banks through Post and Telegraphs Department and the deposits so collected are not ear-marked to be utilised in the region where from they were received. Except during the war periods the deposits in the Postal Savings Banks have been very high. At present all the head offices, sub-offices and branch offices undertake this work on being specially authorised by the Post-Master General.

Post Offices also encourage the low income groups to save through their Cumulative Time Deposit Schemes and Premium Prize Bond Schemes.

In the Ramanathapuram district there were in 1963, three head offices, 109 sub-offices and 489 branch offices. Among them, 3 head offices, 60 sub-offices and 160 branch offices had Savings Bank facilities. The total number of Savings Bank account in March 1963 in operation in the district was 48,347.

It is the educated middle class which is benefitted most by the system of Postal Savings Bank. Agriculturists are now depositing their savings in the Savings Banks. In rural Post Offices the deposits are increasing. As the Post Offices are an agency of the Government the public have full confidence about the security of their funds,

**Insurance Companies:**—The Life Insurance Corporation of India, although does not transact banking business, its transactions are, in certain respects akin to banking and they form an important channel for the mobilisation of people's savings. The General Insurance Companies also perform the same services. They collect premia which have certain features of time deposits, give loans to policy-holders and invest their funds in Government securities, treasury bills and other types of securities such as debentures of land mortgage banks and other banks and in real estate, activities which are in many ways analogous to those of banks.

Prior to the nationalisation of Insurance Companies the All-India National Provident Insurance Company, Limited, was functioning in the Ramanathapuram district with its branch office at Virudhunagar. The Life Insurance Corporation of India, started in 1959 has at present four offices in the district. They are the two branch offices at Virudhunagar and Karaikkudi, a sub-office at Paramagudi and the Development Centre at Rajapalayam under Virudhunagar Branch. The following table will give an idea of the volume of new business in life insurance transacted in the district in recent years.—

| Year. |    |    | Number of policies. | Total sum assured.<br>Rs. |
|-------|----|----|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1958  | .. | .. | 16,214              | 1,92,29,800               |
| 1959  | .. | .. | 16,789              | 2,46,07,600               |
| 1960  | .. | .. | 15,766              | 1,94,86,400               |
| 1961  | .. | .. | 17,116              | 2,47,04,100               |
| 1962  | .. | .. | 17,344              | 2,45,67,400               |
| 1963  | .. | .. | 17,836              | 2,47,15,350               |

Loans granted upto September 1963 to policy holders is Rs. 9,36,146.95 on 2,040 policies. These loans have been sanctioned purely, for private purposes. The scheme of granting loans for construction of houses has just been introduced in the district.

**Stock Exchange:**—There is no recognised stock exchange in the district. But extensive business is carried on in shares and securities in Chettinad Villages including Devakottai and Karaikkudi. There are four share brokers' offices operating at Karaikkudi and one at Devakottai. The Devakottai Share brokers' Office has got business offices at Karaikkudi also. The Karaikkudi brokers have got connections with the centres like Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. Two kinds of business in shares viz., speculative as well as investment are carried on. Generally, the people of the Chettinad appear to be interested in readily marketable securities like shares rather than in investment in immovable properties. As bankers and shrewd business men, they prefer to have more liquid assets, than solid assets. The

annual turnover of business in the year 1963 is estimated at about Rs. 2 crores. The entire finance for this business is met by the leading banks in Chettinad situated in Karaikkudi, Devakottai, Kandanur, Pallathur and Keelasevalpatti. The majority of the people interested in business in shares have over draft accounts with the leading banks against shares. The interest on the above said borrowings appear not to exceed 9 per cent per annum and there is also practically no expenditure on stamp duty, etc., to the borrower. The over drafts are granted by the banks on the strength of simple promissory notes payable on demand coupled with deposits of securities in the bank with blank transfer forms.

*The Industrial Finance Corporation*—The Industrial Finance Corporation of India was set up in 1948 to supply long term finance to the needy industries. Within five years various States set up State Finance Corporations. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India adopted a policy of granting loans above a minimum of Rs. 10,00,000 while the State Finance Corporation made loans below Rs. 10,00,000. The National Industrial Development Corporation was set up by the beginning of Second Five-Year Plan. It has been operating as an agency of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to grant loans for the modernisation of the cotton and jute textile industries. The financial assistance extended by the corporation is restricted to public limited companies and co-operative societies engaged in the manufacturing and processing of goods, generation and distribution of power, mining, shipping and hotels, and new and existing units and to industries which are accorded high priority in Five-Year Plans.

Consistent with the developmental activities directly undertaken by the Government in setting up new units, the existing rules under the State Aid to Industries Act were also considerably liberalised by permitting the District Officers to sanction loans upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000 on personal surities repayable in cash instalments and charging reduced rates of interest. This naturally gave a fillip to the industrial development since many of the artisans and small entrepreneurs, who had not got the necessary finances were able to start industries of their own. The following figures show the amount of loan sanctioned under the State Aid to Industries Act from the year 1957-58 onwards:—

| Year.   |    |    |    | Amount sanctioned. |
|---------|----|----|----|--------------------|
|         |    |    |    | Rs.                |
| 1957-58 | .. | .. | .. | 67,300             |
| 1958-59 | .. | .. | .. | 46,250             |
| 1959-60 | .. | .. | .. | 67,850             |
| 1960-61 | .. | .. | .. | 68,960             |
| 1961-62 | .. | .. | .. | 65,310             |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | .. | 76,000             |

The rules for getting financial assistance from the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation, Limited are as follows:—

1. Applications for a sum below Rs. 1,00,000 will not be entertained
2. Applications for loans above Rs. 1,00,000 to Small Scale Industries alone are entertained.
3. Loans will be granted upto 75 per cent of the value of the security.
4. Interest will be charged at 6 per cent per annum.
5. Equitable mortgage wherever permissible will also be accepted.
6. Non-Industrial assets will also be accepted as security.
7. Working capital loans will be in deserving cases.

### THE MADRAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The following is the list of Cash Loans sanctioned to concerns in the Ramanathapuram District during 1961 by the Corporation:—

| <i>Name of the borrower.</i>   | <i>Date of sanction.</i> | <i>Amount Sanctioned RS.</i> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1)  | (2)                      | (3)                          |
| 1. Rajapalayam Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 3- 7-1953                | 8,00,000                     |
| 2. Virudhunagar Textiles, Ltd. . . . .   | 7- 2-1956                | 8,00,000                     |
| 3. Rajapalayam Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 7- 2-1956                | 20,00,000                    |
| 4. Ramaraju Surgical Cotton Mills, Ltd. . . . .  | 10- 4-1956               | 7,00,000                     |
| 5. Karpagambal Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 8- 1-1957                | 10,00,000                    |
| 6. Bharathi Cotton Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 18- 5-1957               | 3,85,000                     |
| 7. Janakiram Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 16- 3-1959               | 6,50,000                     |
| 8. Sree Karpagambal Mills, Ltd. . . . .  | 27- 1-1959               | 2,00,000                     |
| 9. Ramaraju Surgical Cotton Mills, Ltd. . . . .  | 30-12-1958               | 2,00,000                     |
| 10. Alagappa Cotton Mills . . . . .  | 17- 7-1959               | 5,40,000                     |
| 11. Gowri Tile Works . . . . .   | 9-12-1959                | 1,50,000                     |
| 12. Janakiram Mills, Ltd. . . . .  | 28- 9-1961               | 9,00,000                     |
| 13. Virudhunagar Steel Rolling Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 4- 4-1962                | 4,00,000                     |
| 14. Varadhalakshmi Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 18- 5-1962               | 12,00,000                    |
| 15. Ramaraju Surgical Cotton Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 18- 5-1962               | 10,00,000                    |
| 16. Ramanathapuram Co-operative Spinning Mills . . . . .                                       | 16- 6-1962               | 15,00,000                    |
| 17. Gowri Tile Works . . . . .   | 4- 2-1963                | 1,50,000                     |
| 18. Alagappan Cotton Mills . . . . .   | 4- 2-1963                | 6,00,000                     |
| 19. Nithakalyani Textiles, Ltd. . . . .  | 17- 2-1963               | 10,00,000                    |
| 20. Virudhunagar Steel Rolling Mills, Ltd. . . . .   | 19- 4-1963               | 48,000                       |
| 21. Madras Chip Board Ltd. . . . .   | 4-11-1963                | 8,50,000                     |
| 22. Sri Ramalinga Mills, Ltd., (Paripasu loan Rs. 15 lakhs out of this our loan Rs. 3,75,000). | 28- 2-1964               | 3,75,000                     |
|  |                          | <b>1,54,48,000</b>           |

*Loans sanctioned by way of guarantees to Banks.*

|   | <i>Date of sanction.</i> | <i>Amount<br/>Rs.</i> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sree Ayyanar Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. | 20- 5-1963               | 25,00,000             |
| 2. Ayyappan Textiles .. .. .                    | 9- 8-1963                | 10,00,000             |
| 3. Swamiji Mills Ltd. .. .. .                   | 13-12-1963               | 20,00,000             |
| Total ..  |                          | 55,00,000             |

Grand total .. Rs. 2,09,48,000

**Coinage:**—Prior to the advent of the British rule, the Sethupathis were issuing their own coins to be circulated in their territory.

Earlier to the Nayak period, the Chola coins were in circulation in these areas. In the earliest Chola inscriptions most of the gifts of money are expressed in terms of *tulai pon* (bored-gold). The coins were identified by the punch hole in the centre of the coin which was a sort of hall-mark of genuiness or fineness of the gold used. In this area the following names of coins are met with in the inscriptions. *Tiram Palankasu, Puddukasu, Irasipanam, Varahan panam, Virapandyan kasu, Valai-Vazhi, Tirandan-Kulisai Panam, Solankasu* and *Sakkarapanam*.

The coins of the Sethupathis generally had the recumbent bull and the word *Sethu* and the standing figure on the obverse and some other coins bore on the back, the name Sethupathi. Some of the coins bore, marks of being double struck which was evidently in order to give them re-circulation. The various coins in currency during the rule of the Sethupathi dynasty (1604-1795) were *Kalipanam, Sulipanam, Yellipanam, Pon, Viragan* and *Mailai panam*.

The following table gives the nearest value of these coins in terms of present coinage:—

|                     | RS.  | P. |
|---------------------|------|----|
| 1. Kalipanam .. ..  | 0.21 |    |
| 1. Sulipanam .. ..  | 0.12 |    |
| 1. Vellipanam .. .. | 0.15 |    |
| 1. Viragan .. ..    | 3.50 |    |

When the District passed into the hands of the British, they introduced the company's coinage in the area. The only vernacular term for a coin current locally in the District and nearby areas is *panam* which means  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a rupee. The rupee current in India owes its origin to the Pagoda that was current during the period of the East India Company. The Indian rupee was later standardised during 1885 at 180 grains weight and it approximated in size and weight to the Madras rupee current at that time. The rupee was divided into 16 annas and an anna into 12 pies. The coins in circulation were rupee, eight annas, four annas, two annas, one anna, half

anna, quarter anna and one pie. Currency notes in the denomination of one rupee, two rupees, five rupees, ten rupees, hundred rupees and thousand rupees were in circulation.

The decimal coinage was put into circulation with effect from 1st April 1957. Under the new system, the rupee is divided into 100 units of Paise as against the existing division of the rupee into 192 pies or 64 pices. The table below shows the new coins against the corresponding (but not necessarily equivalent) units of the old coins.

| <i>Paise.</i> | <i>Old Coins.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 Paise       | 2 Pies            |
| 3 Paise       | half anna         |
| 6 Paise       | 1 anna            |
| 12 Paise      | 2 annas           |
| 25 Paise      | 4 annas           |
| 50 Paise      | 8 annas           |
| 100 Paise     | 16 annas          |
| One Rupee     | One Rupee         |

Gradually the old coins were withdrawn and the new coins are put into circulation. The process of change over took about three years and during that period both the new and the old coins were in circulation. The reckoning of new coins in terms of old coins was facilitated by means of a ready reckoner published by the Government.

*Trade and Commerce:*—There are many literary evidence to indicate that Tondi and Pasipattanam on the Ramanathapuram coast were centres of trade in early times. Traders from the Middle Eastern countries settled in these places for purposes of trade. Foreign travellers like Ptolemy, Abul Fidr and Morco Polo had referred to these ports and the valuable trade carried on in these ports. From these ports articles were exported to Malaya, China and Ceylon. When Morco Polo visited this region at the end of the 13th century, he found pearl fishing in a flourishing state in the District.

The traders of Devakottai and Ramanathapuram engaged in the lucrative trade in pearls. The pearls passed through their hands for export to the West through Cochin in early days and Bombay in later times. Gathering of chanks was in the hands of a tribe called Kadayas who settled around Rameswaram. The chank in addition to being valued as an ornament for the fore-head of bullocks and as a musical instrument in Hindu ceremonies, is also valued as the material for making bangles. These chanks were cut and shaped into bangles for export to Bengal where they were very much sought after by women. **Chank**

cutting was a thriving industry in the District from ancient time. It has now practically vanished from the Ramanathapuram district except for the production of few rough articles by the Muslims of Kilakkarai.

The soil of the District is suitable for the cultivation of cotton. Traders gather at the main trading centres of the District for collecting and exporting cotton. In the first half of the 19th century, the Calicos produced in this district found a ready market in foreign countries. With the growth of textile industry of England, indigenous textile industry declined. Raw cotton of India was exported in large quantities from Tondi and Devipattanam to feed the mills of Lancashire. Finished textiles were imported from England. At present textiles produced in handlooms in the District are exported through Dhanushkodi Port. Two varieties of cotton viz., Karunganni-2 and Karunganni-5 are grown in this district and they find ready market all over India.

After the advent of the East India Company in the Ramanathapuram district, articles like grain, pulse, rice and husk were exported from Tondi. Spices also formed a major item of export.

At present Pamban and Dhanushkodi are the two important ports of the District. They engage mainly in coastal trade and the articles of export are fire-wood and road metal. Live turtles are also exported to Ceylon.

Tondi is a minor port which imported about 760 tons of Road Metal Chunks and exported 97 tons of live turtles to Ceylon in 1957-58.

The following table will give an idea of the volume of trade carried on at Pamban in recent years:—

| Year.      | Imports.<br>(Tons). | Exports.<br>(Tons). | Total.<br>(Tons). | Revenue<br>Receipts. | Expenditure. |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| (1)        | (2)                 | (3)                 | (4)               | (5)<br>(RUPEES).     | (6)<br>RS.   |
| 1950-51 .. | 233                 | 2,828               | 3,061             | 12,166               | 17,297       |
| 1951-52 .. | 244                 | 1,966               | 2,210             | 12,885               | 21,586       |
| 1952-53 .. | 56                  | 3,478               | 3,534             | 16,583               | 21,382       |
| 1953-54 .. | 26                  | 2,505               | 2,531             | 14,402               | 19,453       |
| 1954-55 .. | 175                 | 2,528               | 2,703             | 13,599               | 20,430       |
| 1955-56 .. | 738                 | 2,943               | 3,681             | 15,761               | 22,530       |
| 1956-57 .. | 50                  | 4,549               | 4,599             | 13,601               | 24,150       |
| 1957-58 .. | 36                  | 2,238               | 2,274             | 14,804               | 1,23,359     |
| 1958-59 .. | 2,362               | 3,642               | 6,004             | 58,129               | 84,939       |
| 1959-60 .. | 279                 | 2,014               | 2,293             | 14,439               | 97,939       |
| 1960-61 .. | 1,349               | 2,565               | 3,914             | 1,75,634             | 1,00,461     |
| 1961-62 .. | 2,931               | 819                 | 3,750             | 23,168               | 46,281       |
| 1962-63 .. | 6,245               | 610                 | 6,855             | 30,174               | 39,220       |
| 1963-64 .. | 5,666               | 365                 | 6,031             | 11,373               | 50,106       |



In the port of Dhanushkodi betel-nut forms the main item of import. Main exports are chillies, jaggery, cotton, piece-goods, dried fish, cement and bone grist. The following table gives the volume of trade in the port in recent years :—

| Year.      | Imports. | Exports. | Total.   | Revenue<br>(Receipts.) | Expenditure.<br>(Rs.) |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|            | (Tons.)  | (Tons.)  | (Tons.)  | RS.                    | RS.                   |
| 1950-51 .. | 4,881    | 13,998   | 18,879   | 2,333                  | 3,349                 |
| 1951-52 .. | 5,057    | 10,628   | 15,685   | 2,476                  | 3,985                 |
| 1952-53 .. | 2,725    | 11,046   | 13,771   | 2,439                  | 3,432                 |
| 1953-54 .. | 2,103    | 11,457   | 13,560   | 2,276                  | 3,762                 |
| 1954-55 .. | 966      | 10,080   | 11,046   | 2,417                  | 3,458                 |
| 1955-56 .. | 1,303    | 7,060    | 8,363    | 2,427                  | 3,805                 |
| 1956-57 .. | 437      | 2,808    | 3,245    | 2,484                  | 3,656                 |
| 1957-58 .. | 148      | 6,299    | 6,447    | 2,339                  | 5,820                 |
| 1958-59 .. | 179      | 6,667    | 6,846    | 4,083                  | 4,646                 |
| 1959-60 .. | 62       | 8,050    | 8,112    | 2,808                  | 3,932                 |
| 1960-61 .. | 16       | 8,110    | 8,126    | 2,355                  | 4,887                 |
| 1961-62 .. | 68.25    | 7,684.75 | 7,753    | 2686                   | 4,174                 |
| 1962-63 .. | 50       | 7,171.25 | 7,221.25 | 2,234                  | 5,653                 |
| 1963-64 .. | 238.26   | 7,192.56 | 7,430.82 | 1,466                  | 6,319                 |

Salt forms an important article of coastal trade. The manufacture of salt still gives employment to a large number of people on the coast. When the East India Company took over the administration of this region in, 1803, they also took over the monopoly of salt industry from the Zamindari and excluded it from the revenue. This was laid down in the deed of permanent settlement granted to Rani Mangaleswari Natchiar in 1803.

The internal trade of the District has increased in recent years. The development of new industries in the district have very much influenced the commodity contents of the trade. The matches and fireworks industries of Sivakasi have very much altered the variety and volume of goods exported from this District. Fire works of Sivakasi such as sparklers, capes, coloured matches, flower-pots, etc., are in demand in all parts of India and they are despatched to different parts of the country. The cement factory of Thulukhapatti has begun production and cement also will be exported from this district in future years. The Industrial Estate at Sulakarai near Virudhunagar has some units

which are engaged in the production of polythene bags, gem clips pins, wire nails, spare parts for rice mills and pump sets. Their products also increasingly enter the trade of the District.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) found that the producers-sellers of agricultural produce were exploited to a very great extent by middlemen due to the prevalence of ineffective, unorganised and uncontrolled system of marketing of agricultural produce. They observed that these evils can only be eliminated by the establishment of Regulated Markets and suggested that Marketing Legislation should be undertaken by all the States in India.

Though there was some form of regulation of markets as early as 1897, it gained momentum only after the publication of the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The Madras State was the forth in the country to enact the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act (Madras Act XX of 1933) in 1933. Since the scope of the Act was restricted to commercial crops alone, by an amendment to the Act in 1945, the scope of the Act was extended further to all crops or products that may be notified for the purpose under the Act.

The Act was enforced in the Tiruppur Municipal Area in the Coimbatore District in respect of cotton from 1936 and in the South Arcot District in respect of groundnut from 1939. The outbreak of World War II, hampered further progress and extension of this Act to other districts. Later with the inauguration of the Five-Year Plans, the importance of regulated markets was stressed and the Act was extended gradually to other districts of the State.

At present seven districts in the State are covered under the Act. The Ramanathapuram District came under the scope of the Act in respect of cotton and groundnut with effect from June 1951. It was first administered by a wholly nominated market committee called the Ramanathapuram Market Committee. It enforced the Act in the District from January 1953. Within a month of its starting its activities a writ petition was held by traders in the High Court of Madras. They challenged the provisions of the Act as unconstitutional and obtained stay of proceedings. During July 1953, the judgement was pronounced by the High Court of Madras upholding the Act as a valid piece of Legislation. When the Committee started again enforcing the Act, many representations were made to the Government who tried all reconciliatory methods to satisfy the demands of the trade to the extent possible. But not satisfied with this, the traders in 1954, went on appeal to the Supreme Court against the judgment of the High Court of Madras and obtained stay of proceedings in respect of the petitioners. Since the constitutional validity of the Act was challenged and since it was pending before the Supreme Court, the Government of Madras ordered comprehensive stay of proceedings.

In the meanwhile, in view of the opposition prevalent to this Act, an Expert Committee was constituted in 1956 to go into the working of the Act and suggest remedies. In order to implement the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Madras Government enacted in 1959 a new Act called the Madras Agricultural Produce Act 1959 (Madras Act 23 of 1959), to replace the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933.

In the meanwhile, the Madras Commercial Crop Act, 1933 was also held as a valid piece of legislation by the Supreme Court in its judgement, dated 6th October 1958.

The activities of the Ramanathapuram Market Committee were served from March 1960. Again the traders of this area made many representations to the Government requesting them not to permit the opening of any Markets in this area and to denotify the area from the purview of this Act. The Government turned down their request in respect of denotification but agreed to postpone the opening of the Regulated Markets in this District until the new Act was enforced. Till then the licencing provision and the section relating to the collection of cess alone were enforced.

The Madras Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1959 was enforced in the whole State of Madras on and from November 1962 repealing the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933. There upon steps were taken to establish Regulated Markets in this District, but again on representations from the trade, the Government deferred the opening of Markets till April 1963. Early in April 1963, again this Market Committee went ahead in arranging for the inauguration of Regulated Market at Virudhunagar to start with. But in the meanwhile, both the Keelapettai and Malaipettai Panju Market Sangams at Virudhunagar filed writ petition in the High Court of Madras and obtained interim stay of proceedings from enforcing all the provisions of the Act and from establishing a Market at Virudhunagar.

The Market Committee took immediate steps to vacate the stay. The Court modified the stay orders and restricted the stay only to opening of a Market at Virudhunagar till the writ petition was disposed off. Early in July 1963, the writ petition was dismissed with costs to the Market Committee. Thereupon the Market Committee again took steps to open Regulated Market in this District. The Markets at Rajapalayam and Virudhunagar were inaugurated on 30th July 1963. Facilities for the purchase and sale of cotton and groundnut were made available in the above markets. Later from October 1963 facilities were also provided for the purchase and sale of chillies in both the Markets and sugarcane jaggery, jaggery-powder and brown sugar in the Rajapalayam Market. The Regulated Markets at Sattur, Aruppukkottai and Singampuneri were opened in 1963 and those at Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram in 1964.

Facilities are now offered in all the markets for purchase and sale of cotton, groundnut and chillies. In the Rajapalayam Market in addition to other goods facilities are also offered for the purchase and sale of cane jaggery, jaggery-powder and brown sugar.

*Shandies in the District:*—The following table shows the *shandies* held in the District. The *shandies* are particularly helpful to the rural folk for the sale and purchase of their produce, and cattle. Generally speaking, foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, tea, textiles and cattle are traded in the *shandies*.



## LIST OF SHANDIES IN THE DISTRICT.

| Serial number, name or the village, or town where the shandy is held. | (1)<br>Whether weekly, fortnightly or monthly. | (2)<br>Day on which the shandy is held.                      | (3)<br>Number of villages and/or population served by shandy. | (4)<br>Average attendance of the shandy. | (5)<br>Nature of produce and articles sold and purchased at the shandy. |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>SIVAGANGA TALUK.</b>   |  |  |   |  |   |
| 1. Keelspoongudi .. .. .  | Weekly ..                                      | Sunday ..  | 30 villages (20,000)  | 1,000                                    | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables and cattle.                           |
| 2. Somanathamangalam alias Kalaiyarkoil .. .. .                       | Weekly ..                                      | Monday ..  | 100 villages (30,000)   | 2,000                                    | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries pulses, clothes and cattle.           |
| Somanathamangalam alias Kalaiyarkoil..                                | Annual ..                                      | For 10 days immediately after the close of Vaikasi festival. | 100 villages (30,000)   | ..                                       | Cattle fair.  |
| 3. Tirumanjotai .. .. .   | Weekly ..                                      | Friday ..  | 5 villages (5,000)  | 200                                      | Groceries and vegetables.   |
| 4. Periakottai .. .. .  | Weekly ..                                      | Tuesday ..   | 5 villages (2,000)  | 250                                      | Paddy and other foodgrains, vegetables, groceries and cattle.           |
| 5. Sivaganga .. .. .  | Weekly ..                                      | Wednesday ..   | 40 villages (10,000)  | 3,000                                    | Foodgrains, Vegetables, groceries, fruits, meat, cattle, etc.           |
| 6. Sivaganga .. .. .  | Daily ..                                       | .. ..  | Sivaganga Town and 2 or 3 villages surrounding it. (500).     | 200                                      | Meat and fish.  |

| Serial number, name or the village or town where the shandy is held. | Whether weekly, fortnightly, shandy is held. or monthly. | Day on which the shandy is held. | Number of village and/or population served by shandy | Average attendance of the shandy. | Nature of produce and articles sold and purchased at the shandy. |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| (1)  | (2)  | (3)                              | (4)  | (5)                               | (6)  |
| 7. Madagupatti .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Thursday               | .. 10 villages (2,000)                               | 370                               | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries etc.                           |
| 8. Alavakottai .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Monday                 | .. 9 villages (2,300)                                | 300                               | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, etc.                          |
| 9. Chokkanathapuram .. ..  | .. ..  | Weekly .. Tuesday                | .. 12 villages (3,500)                               | 390                               | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, etc.                          |
| 10. Paganeri .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Friday                 | .. 15 villages (5,000)                               | 450                               | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, etc.                          |
| 11. Nattarasankottai .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Saturday               | .. 25 villages                                       | 2,000                             | Foodgrains, vegetables, fish, etc                                |
| 12. Mangalam .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Sunday                 | .. 5 to 10 villages.                                 | 100                               | Vegetables, and groceries.                                       |
| 13. Manamadurai .. ..  | .. ..  | Weekly .. Thursday               | .. 25 villages (20,000).                             | 1,500                             | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, cattle.                       |
| 14. Nelmudikarai .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Tuesday                | .. 20 villages ..                                    | 1,000                             | Foodgrains, vegetables, groceries, cattle, fowl, etc.            |
| 15. Tirupachetti .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Wednesday              | .. 16 villages ..                                    | 500                               | Vegetables, groceries, sheep, goats, fish, etc.                  |
| 16. Palavanur .. ..  | .. ..  | Weekly .. Monday                 | .. 21 villages ..                                    | 200                               | Vegetables, groceries, sheep, goats, fish, etc.                  |
| 17. Tiruppuvanam .. ..   | .. ..  | Weekly .. Tuesday                | .. 10 villages ..                                    | 500                               | Coconut, Foodgrains, groceries and vegetables.                   |

## TIRUVADANAI TALUK.

|                              |    |        |    |           |    |             |    |       |  |
|------------------------------|----|--------|----|-----------|----|-------------|----|-------|--|
| 1. Aresathur (Kathamangalam) | .. | Weekly | .. | Thursday  | .. | 20 villages | .. | 400   | Vegetables, grains, cattle and fish.                 |
| 2. Aranandal                 | .. | Weekly | .. | Saturday  | .. | 15 villages | .. | 400   | Do.  |
| 3. Anandur                   | .. | Weekly | .. | Thursday  | .. | 5 villages  | .. | 100   | Fish and vegetables.                                 |
| 4. Aproz                     | .. | Weekly | .. | Thursday  | .. | 10 villages | .. | 1,000 | Vegetables.  |
| 5. Hanumanthangudi           | .. | Weekly | .. | Saturday  | .. | 10 villages | .. | 100   | Fish and vegetables.                                 |
| 6. Kannangudi                | .. | Weekly | .. | Wednesday | .. | 6 villages  | .. | 100   | Fish and vegetables.                                 |
| 7. Sarugani (Palaniyaval)    | .. | Weekly | .. | Tuesday   | .. | 30 villages | .. | 500   | Fish, vegetables, grains and hides.                  |
| 8. Sevapettai                | .. | Weekly | .. | Friday    | .. | 5 villages  | .. | 50    | Fish and vegetables.                                 |
| 9. Oriyur                    | .. | Weekly | .. | Wednesday | .. | 20 villages | .. | 500   | Grains and hides.                                    |
| 10. Puliya                   | .. | Weekly | .. | Tuesday   | .. | 10 villages | .. | 200   | Do.  |
| 11. Tiruvadanai              | .. | Weekly | .. | Monday    | .. | 20 villages | .. | 300   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetable, fish and dry fish. |
| 12. Devakottai               | .. | Weekly | .. | Sunday    | .. | 25 villages | .. | 500   | Do.  |

## ARUPPUKKOTTAI TALUK.

|                   |    |        |    |           |    |             |    |     |  |
|-------------------|----|--------|----|-----------|----|-------------|----|-----|--|
| 1. Pulvoikarai    | .. | Weekly | .. | Wednesday | .. | 10 villages | .. | 500 | Foodgrains, groceries, cattle, etc.  |
| 2. Tiruchuli      | .. | Weekly | .. | Wednesday | .. | 10 villages | .. | 200 | Foodgrains, groceries and vegetables.  |
| 3. Aruppukkottai  | .. | Weekly | .. | Monday    | .. | 20 villages | .. | 500 | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables, handloom cloths, sheep, hen, cattle, etc. |
| 4. Pandalgudi     | .. | Weekly | .. | Saturday  | .. | 5 villages  | .. | 100 | Foodgrains, groceries, and vegetables  |
| 5. M. Reddiapatti | .. | Weekly | .. | Sunday    | .. | 5 villages  | .. | 100 | Do.  |
| 6. Karisipatti    | .. | Weekly | .. | Wednesday | .. | 15 villages | .. | 200 | Do.  |

| (1)<br>Serial number, name of the village or town<br>where the shandy is held. | (2)<br>Whether<br>weekly,<br>fortnightly<br>or monthly. | (3)<br>Day on which the<br>shandy is held. | (4)<br>Number of<br>village and/or<br>population<br>served by shandy | (5)<br>Average<br>attendance of<br>of the shandy. | (6)<br>Nature of produce and articles sold<br>and purchased at the shandy.          |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>PARAMANGUDI TALUK.</b>  |   |  |  |   |   |
| 1. Parthibanoor .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Saturday ..                                | 15 villages<br>(5,000)   | 2,000   | Foodgrains, vegetables etc.   |
| 2. Kalangathankottai .. ..   | Weekly ..   | Wednesday ..                               | 20 villages  | 400   | Foodgrains, vegetables, fish, potteries<br>etc.                                     |
| 3. South Ilayangudi .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Saturday ..                                | 20,000   | 5,000   | Foodgrains, vegetables, fish (dry),<br>cattle etc. cattle (main).                   |
| 4. Paramangudi .. ..   | Weekly ..   | Thursday ..                                | 100 villages   | 2,000   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables,<br>chillies, handloom cloths, sheep<br>hen, etc. |
| <b>TIRUPATTUR TALUK.</b>   |   |  |  |   |   |
| 1. Kallupatti .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Tuesday ..                                 | 3 villages   | 50  | Vegetables.   |
| 2. Kallal .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Thursday ..                                | 10 villages  | 300   | Fish and vegetables.  |
| 3. Kandaramanickam .. ..   | Weekly ..   | Friday ..                                  | ..   | 100   | Pulses and vegetables.  |
| 4. A. Thekkur .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Friday ..                                  | ..   | 50 to 60  | Do.   |
| 5. Kothamangalam .. ..   | Weekly ..   | Saturday ..                                | ..   | 300   | Do.   |
| 6. Chettinad .. ..   | Weekly ..   | Wednesday ..                               | ..   | 200 to 300  | Do.   |
| 7. Karisalpatti .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Sunday ..                                  | ..   | 60  | Do.   |
| 8. Thirukoshtiyur .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Tuesday ..                                 | ..   | 60  | Do.   |
| 9. Kannangudi .. ..  | Weekly ..   | Friday ..                                  | ..   | 60  | Do.   |



|                         |    |    |    |           |              |                 |       |  |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-------|--|
| 10. Karaikkudi ..       | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Monday ..    | 100 villages .. | 2,000 | Cattle, sheep, hen, hay, fuel, food grains, handloom cloths, groceries, potteries, etc.        |
| 11. Tirupattur ..       | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Saturday ..  | 50 villages ..  | 1,500 | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables, sheep, etc.   |
| 12. Singampunari ..     | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Thursday ..  | 50 villages ..  | 1,000 | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables, groundnut, oil, sheep, coir, etc.                           |
| 13. Sakcottai ..        | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Wednesday .. | 15 villages ..  | 300   | Foodgrains groceries, and vegetables.  |
| 14. Kanadukathan ..     | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Sunday ..    | 5 villages ..   | 100   | Do.  |
| RAMANATHAPURAM TALUK.   |    |    |    |           |              |                 |       |  |
| 1. Ramanathapuram ..    | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Wednesday .. | 30 villages ..  | 300   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables fish, dryfish, chillies, handloom cloths, sheep, hides, etc. |
| MUDUKULATTUR TALUK.     |    |    |    |           |              |                 |       |  |
| 1. Kamudi ..            | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Tuesday ..   | 25 villages ..  | 500   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables and sheep.   |
| 2. Mudukulattur ..      | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Thursday ..  | 20 villages ..  | 500   | Do.  |
| 3. Abiramam ..          | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Monday ..    | 25 villages ..  | 500   | Do.  |
| 4. (Abiramam) Natham .. | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Wednesday .. | 25 villages ..  | 500   | Do.  |
| 5. Kadaladi ..          | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Tuesday ..   | 10 villages ..  | 300   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables and dry fish.  |
| SATTUR TALUK.           |    |    |    |           |              |                 |       |  |
| 1. Sivakasi ..          | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Tuesday ..   | 20 villages ..  | 500   | Foodgrains, groceries, and vegetables.   |
| 2. Sattur ..            | .. | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Saturday ..  | 25 villages ..  | 500   | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables, cotton, chillies and sheep.                                 |

| Serial number, name of the village or town where the shandy is held. | (1) | (2) | Day on which the shandy is held. | Number of villages and/or population served by shandy | Average attendance of the shandy. | Nature of produce and articles sold and purchased at the shandy. |
|--|-----|-----|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
|  | (1) | (2) | (3)                              | (4)   | (5)                               | (6)  |

SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUK.

|                |    |    |           |             |                |       |   |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------|---|
| 1. Rajapalayam | .. | .. | Weekly .. | Thursday .. | 30 villages .. | 2,000 | Foodgrains, groceries, vegetables, cocoanuts, fruits, sheep, cotton, chillies, potteries, sarrees, etc. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------|---|

*Activities of the State Trading Corporation:*—The State Trading Corporation of India Limited, has no office in the District. They distribute the products imported by them through their distributors or agents, who mostly operate from centres outside the District. The Corporation has an agent at Virudhunagar for the distribution of betel-nuts which it imports from Ceylon.

Betel-nuts were imported from Ceylon and other foreign countries by private businessmen till 1961. Owing to the difficulties involved in foreign exchange, the import by private businessmen was progressively reduced and handed over to the State Trading Corporation. The State Trading Corporation in its turn utilises the companies constituted by the established importers, for import and distribution of betel-nuts. One of the companies thus constituted, viz., the Regulated Distributors Limited is functioning at Virudhunagar. It imports on behalf of the State Trading Corporation and distributes the goods among established importers of Madras, Kerala and Mysore States. The annual turnover in betel-nuts is estimated around Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs. Apart from this, the State Trading Corporation has no other activity in this District.

*Ware-houses:*—In the country, attention came to be focussed on the importance of warehousing in the context of marketing about 30 years ago with the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. In 1944, the Reserve Bank of India took the first tangible step in recommending to all State Governments to enact legislation for the setting up and supervision of warehouses. Even though a few State Governments had passed the requisite legislation, no warehouses were, in practice, set up anywhere in the country. The Rural Banking Enquiry Committee in 1950 also emphasised the importance of storage and warehousing in relation to rural credit and rural banking. In the absence, of a detailed scheme towards that end, no progress in pursuance of the recommendation was made. Again, the Committee of Direction on the All-India Rural Credit Survey in their report of 1954 emphasised the magnitude and urgency of the problem.

As a result of the recommendations of the Committee of Direction on the All-India Rural Credit Survey, the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act was passed and provision was made for the establishment of—

1. National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board ;
2. Central Warehousing Corporation ; and
3. A State Warehousing Corporation in each State.

The National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board was set up in September 1956, and the Central Warehousing Corporation started functioning in July 1957. The State Warehousing Corporation in the Madras State came into being between July 1957 and August 1958.

There are 64 Central Warehouses (77 by the end of the Financial year, 1964-65) and 407 State Warehouses in the country. So far as the Ramanathapuram District is concerned there is one Central Warehouse at Virudhunagar and a State Warehouse at Rajapalayam.

The Central Warehousing Corporation of India runs general warehouses in different parts of the country. Of these, four are in the Madras State, viz., at Madras, Coimbatore, Kumbakonam and Virudhunagar. The Central Warehouse at Virudhunagar was established in the year 1961. The commodities stored in these warehouses are foodgrains, spices and pulses, i.e., coriander, chillies, cardamom, dhall, black-gram and green-gram.

The procedure adopted in the Warehouse is as follows:—On arrival at the Warehouse, samples are taken from the bags and the produce is tested for grading. After the test, the samples are deposited in 3 sealed tiny bags, one bag is handed over to the depositor and the other two are kept in the safe custody with the Warehouse Officer. At the time of release, if the depositor entertains any doubt regarding the produce deposited by him, he is required to satisfy himself by a verification with the sample bag available with him or with the ones kept with the Warehouse Officer. Bags of the same size are used for packing and storage in the Warehouse. Enough gunny bags are kept in the Warehouse for sale to the depositor if he so requires. Each stock is given an identification number and this number is noted on each bag of that particular lot. The bags are piled and arranged scientifically and all care necessary is taken for the proper preservation of the goods stored.

The role of the Warehouse in helping the depositor to secure financial assistance is also significant. On the security of the receipt tendered by the Warehouse Officer, the depositor can secure from the State Bank an advance to an extent of 75 per cent of the value of goods deposited by him. The Warehouse charges only nominal rates for storage. As the charges are very nominal, many traders in pulses and plantation crops are making use of the Central Warehouse for storing their produces. At present the Central Warehouse in the District is located in a rented building. The Central Warehousing Corporation has acquired lands for construction of a godown of its own at an estimated cost of Rs.10 lakhs.

At Rajapalayam in the District there is the State Warehouse set up by the Madras State Warehousing Corporation. It was opened during March in 1961, and is the only State Warehouse in the District. The Warehouse has completed construction of a permanent building with a capacity of 2,000 Tonnes. The commodities like cotton, cotton seeds, chillies, paddy, pulses, jaggery, etc., are stored in this Warehouse. There is special facility for the storage of cotton.

Another important warehouse of this District is that of the Ramanathapuram District Co-operative Marketing Society. It also enables producers to store their produce in its godowns for nominal charges, though the technique of preservation of produces against pests adopted here are not as highly developed as that of the Central and State Warehousing Corporation.

*Activities of the Spices Export Promotion Council in the District:—* The functions of this Council are to exercise quality control and pre-shipment inspection in respect of black pepper, cardamom and chillies. Its headquarters is at Ernakulam in the Kerala State. It has a sub-office at Virudhunagar in the District besides at other places in the country.

From Virudhunagar, mainly cardamoms are exported. A certain amount of chillies are also exported to Colombo. Cardamoms are exported to different countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia, America, Belgium, etc. During the year 1963, a quantity of 1,99,535 kilograms of cardamoms valued at about Rs. 30 to 35 lakhs and 6,99,050 kilograms of chillies valued at about Rs. 15-50 lakhs were exported to Ceylon from Virudhunagar. In cardamoms, mainly, there are 2 varieties—One is Allepey Green Cardamoms and the other is Coorg Green Cardamoms. Allepey Cardamoms are mainly grown in the States of Kerala and Madras, whereas Coorg Green Cardamoms are grown in the Mysore State only. The Allepey Cardamoms fetch a higher price than the Coorg Cardamoms.

The Agricultural Marketing Advisor to the Government of India through the special staff appointed at various centres undertake the work of check-sampling of the lots graded and marked by the staff of Spices Export Promotion Council. For the purpose of check-sampling, the Officer of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection selects upto 2 per cent of the contents from the lot graded and marked by the Inspecting Officer of the Spices Export Promotion Council and draws samples from the lot graded. In case, the samples or samples torn from the bags are found not to conform to the specifications of the grade marked, all the bags comprising that lot are endorsed to the appropriate grade as indicated by the result of the check-sampling and the sub-packer is required to change the appropriate trade marks accordingly.

In respect of chillies, Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram export the Gundu variety to Madras market. The *Samba* (Sannam) variety is exported from Sattur, Rajapalayam and Virudhunagar mainly to Ceylon via Tuticorin.

*Centres of Wholesale and Retail Trade:—* Virudhunagar, Rajapalayam and Karaikkudi are the three chief wholesale trading centres in the District. At Virudhunagar, wholesale business is carried on largely in black-gram, red-gram, green-gram, bengal-gram, coriander, chillies, cotton, groundnut, gingelly, betel-nut, coffee, cardamom,

groundnut oil, gingili oil, ragi, cholam and cambu. Rajapalayam transacts wholesale business in cotton, groundnut, beans (பெரிசை), rice, paddy, cocoanut, tamarind, timber and charcoal. At Karaikudi wholesale business is done mostly in bengal-gram, green-gram, beans and foodgrains.

Virudhunagar is the main trading centre where grains like, black gram and red-gram are imported from North Indian markets. On an average, one wagon load of pulses come from up-country daily. They are broken into dhalls and supplied to the neighbouring districts and to the Kerala State. As regards local produce, except cotton which is consumed within the State, chillies alone is the main produce which is exported to almost to all States in the country.

At Sattur and Ramanathapuram wholesale business is done largely in chillies. At Paramagudi, there is wholesale trading in dried fish.

Watrap, Aruppukkottai, Kamudi, Tiruppattur, Paramagudi, and Ramanathapuram are the main marketing centres in the District.

*Information on Local Trade and Commerce:*—The following periodicals/bulletins on trade and commerce are published in the District. They disseminate trade and commercial intelligence and promote trading and commercial activities in the District, and also seek to further the interests of traders and businessmen in the District.

*Vaniga Seithi.*—This is a periodical issued every Friday from Virudhunagar by the Virudhunagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Besides carrying articles and news of general interest to industry and trade, the periodical also gives information on local market conditions in the District.

#### WEEKLY MARKET REPORTS OF THE VIRUDHUNAGAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY :—

These weekly market reports (cyclostyled copies) issued from Virudhunagar every Friday give the wholesale and retail prices of agricultural produce and by-products (paddy, rice, cambu, onions, chillies, dhalls, grams, oils, coriander seed and cardamom) in the District for every week.

*The Daily Bombay Cotton Report:*—This daily bulletin issued from Virudhunagar gives the latest information relating to the cotton trade.

*All India Radio:*—The District Statistical Officer through his Inspector at Virudhunagar transmits everyday by telegrams the price trends of important local commodities to the All India Radio. The information are broadcasted to the public everyday. The

Tahsildars in the District also collect particulars on prices of paddy etc., and submit weekly reports to the Collector. The Collector consolidates the particulars and submits a report to the Government, every Monday.

*Merchants' and Consumers' Associations in the District:*—The following are the important merchants' associations in the District:—

1. Virudhunagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Virudhunagar.
2. Vijayabharatha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Virudhunagar.
3. Oil Millers' Association, Virudhunagar.
4. Tobacco Merchants' Association, Virudhunagar.
5. Ramanathapuram District Cotton Association, Virudhunagar.

A few other merchants' associations are found at Karaikkudi and other important urban centres.

*Weights and Measures:*—Prior to the introduction of a common system of weights and measures, local units varied from place to place. The Ramanathapuram Manual gives the following table as the one that was in vogue in 1870 ties :—

#### WEIGHTS.

|  |    |             |
|--|----|-------------|
| Six Queen's Silver Rupee Weight            | .. | One Pallam. |
| Twenty Pallams                             | .. | One Viss.   |
| One hundred and twenty Pallams or Six viss | .. | One Thulam. |

#### MEASURES OF THE CAPACITY OF GRAIN AND LIQUID.

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| One hundred and thirty-five Queen's Silver Rupee Weight. | .. | One Pakka Measure.                                  |
| Six Measures   | .. | One Marakkal.                                       |
| Fifteen Marakkal   | .. | One Kullam.   |
| One Measure of Paddy                                     | .. | One hundred and sixty-nine seers (80 tolas a seer). |

The metric system of weights was introduced in the District with effect from 1st July 1958 for certain goods and undertakings. From 1st October 1960, metric system was introduced in Government Departments. The use of metric weights was made compulsory with effect from 1st April 1962 after allowing a transitional period of two years for the continued use of old weights. Extension of time for introducing beam scales was granted up to April 1963 due to the scarcity of standard beam scales.

The metric system was introduced in the case of crude petroleum and petroleum products with effect from 1st March 1960. The use of metric leniar measures was made compulsory in the District from 1st October 1962.

The use of metric capacity measure has been made compulsory with effect from 1st April 1963.

The following are the new metric units of weights and measures introduced in Ramanathapuram District as well as in the remaining districts of the Madras State.

I. BASIC UNITS OF LENGTH.

|                  |   |                  |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| Ten milli metres | = | One centi metre. |
| Ten centi metres | = | One deci metre.  |
| Ten deci metres  | = | One metre.       |
| Ten metres       | = | One deka metre.  |
| Ten deka metres  | = | One hecto metre. |
| Ten hecto metres | = | One kilo metre.  |





## CHAPTER VII

### COMMUNICATIONS.

This District, at the south-eastern extreme of the State extends from the Western Ghats to the sea coast. It has 1,388 miles of motorable roads and 165 miles of coast line with 3 minor ports and a number of fishermen villages on the coast. There are also 270 miles of railway line.

Yet with intense tourist traffic connected with the two places of pilgrimage Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi and the regular transport for trade purposes for cotton and chilli, the communication facilities in the district were found to be woefully inadequate.

*Ancient routes:*—The pilgrim traffic associated with the two great temples of Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi and a multitude of other minor temples, the freight traffic in connection with pearl fishing and horse imports at the coastal centres and the movement of troops brought about by the frequent engagements among Chola, Pandya and Ceylon rulers had a benevolent influence on the road development of the District.

Literature of the Sangam period also refers to the highways in existence in the Marava Country. *Silapathikaram*, describes a road from Uraiyur in Chola Country to Madurai cutting across the Marava Country. Amir Khusru, the Muslim historian of the 14th century also describes a road connecting these two places, probably the same road. The road, ran from Tiruchirapalli to Madurai connecting Pudukkottai, Thirumayam and Tiruppattur. The Ceylonese records which describe the expedition of Lankapura, a Ceylonese general against Kulasekara Pandya in 1170 A.D. mention the highway connecting Madurai and Pon-amarawathi<sup>1</sup> via Tiruppattur. It was this route which Maravarman Sundara Pandya took while invading the Chola Country. His inscriptions are found all along the high road in places like Kandavarayanpatti, Velankudi and Pon-amaravathi. Malik Kafur when he came on his plundering raid in 1311 took the same route during his march from Tiruchirapalli to Madurai. On his way to Rameswaram, it appears he took the present Benares-Rameswaram High Road<sup>2</sup>. Neither the Nayaks nor the Sethupathis took any step to develop the roads except with regard to pilgrim traffic.<sup>3</sup> Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathi (1711-1725) appointed his son-in-law to look after the interests of the pilgrims. He collected a small fee from all who crossed

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<sup>1</sup> This place is identified near Pudukkottai

<sup>2</sup> S. Krishnaswamy Ayyangar—South India and her Mohammedan Invader—1921, 118.

<sup>3</sup> In fact, the local tradition has it that Rama himself appointed the Sethupathi to guard the Sethu or the Isthmus which once connected Ceylon with the mainland and the very word Sethupathi is traced to this event

over to Rameswaram and out of the money so acquired he laid a road eight miles in length connecting Pamban with Rameswaram. But he was executed since he did not get the royal permission for this act. Mangammal (1689-1706) the Nayak ruler is said to have laid a road from Madurai to Rameswaram<sup>1</sup>. During the Poligar Wars, the British general bewailed the bad condition of roads in the District. It was only after control over Zamindari region was taken over by the British the communication facilities in the District were improved.

In the field of maritime activity also the District has a long history. Tondi and Pasipatnam were among the great ports of coromandel. Tondi was linking Tamilnad with Malaya, China and Ceylon. During the Ceylonese invasion of the Pandya country, Rajadhiraja, the Chola monarch sent his forces to assist Kulasekara, the Pandya King through sea and the forces landed in Tondi and Pasipatanam.

*History of Road Development:*—Captain Ward refers to some of the roads that were in existence in the Ramanathapuram District, when the East India Company took over the administration. They were mainly used by bullock-carts and horse-drawn carriages that were engaged in trade<sup>2</sup>. All of them were unmetalled and during rainy season, they were impassable.

In the year 1819, the territories under the East India Company in the Madras Presidency were divided into three divisions, each under the charge of a Civil Engineer for the purpose of improving communication facilities. Road Construction in the whole Presidency was placed under "The Inspector-General of Civil Estimates". This arrangement may be considered the nucleus of the Maramat Department of the later period. In 1825, the whole Department was placed under the Board of Revenue. The post of Inspector-General of Civil Estimates was abolished in 1836, and a Public Works Engineer-Secretary to the Board of Revenue was appointed. There was alround increase of work for the Department and in 1838, the Presidency was divided into eight Maramat divisions, each under the charge of a Civil Engineering Section. First efforts to improve the roads in the District were taken by Blackburne, Collector of Madurai (Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga formed part of Madurai District till 1910). He spent Rs. 1,23,000 on roads in nine years between 1834 and 1842. Out of this sum, Rs. 70,000 was spent on bridges and culverts and Rs. 8,000 on gravelling.

In the year 1845, the main line of roads, then known as the Imperial Roads, were transferred to the newly created Trunk Road Department. This Department was placed under the Superintendent of Roads. The Civil Engineers, work was restricted to

<sup>1</sup> Nelson—Madura Country—1868—Vol. III., Page 219.

<sup>2</sup> Captain Ward—Geographical and Statistical Memoir of the Province of Madurai and Dindigul—Vol. III—1817—Page 17.

designing and planning the projects. The actual execution of the work was carried on by a separate establishment, working under the orders of the Tahsildars, known as the 'Revenue Maramat'. This department consisted of 12 Superintendents of Maramat or *Maistries* of superior qualification and a number of *Maistries* worked under them.

The Engineering Department started in 1785 also had jurisdiction over the roads and other means of communications in the cantonment areas. This system remained in force till 1858, when the Department was abolished.

But all these developments in the Presidency level did not much affect the areas now covered by Ramanathapuram District.<sup>1</sup> In 1843, there were only eight High Roads worthwhile for any wheeled traffic. They are the following (1) The road from Thanjavur to Ramanathapuram connected Kottapatnam, Sundara Pandiyapatnam and Tondi with Ramanathapuram. This 50 mile long road although used by carriages, was very inconvenient for travel owing to the heavy sand along the sea-coast. (2) The Trichinopoly-Ramanathapuram Road ran along Pudukkottai, Sheraganur, Mangalagudi and Rasingamangalam. This was also a carriage road, but it was in a bad condition owing to the frequent interception of paddy fields which rendered it impassable during rainy seasons. (3) Another road that connected Tiruchirapalli with Ramanathapuram separated into two at Tiruppattur, one going *via* Sivaganga and the other *via* Kalaiyarkoil. Near Chettimattam both the branch roads joined the road leading to Ramanathapuram. Though this road was good enough for wheeled traffic, much inconvenience was caused by the Vaigai river which intersected the road at many points. (4) The road that connected Madurai and Ramanathapuram ran along Manamadurai and Paramagudi. (5) Another road that connected Madurai and Ramanathapuram ran *via* Avur and Tiruchuli. This was one of the best roads in the area at that time owing to the high and level surface along which it ran. (6) Another road connecting Madurai and Ramanathapuram ran along Tiruchuli and Kamudi. This was also a good carriage road. (7) The road that connected Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram separated into two at Kilaseluvannur, one leading to Rameswaram, the other to Ramanathapuram. (8) Another road ran along the sea coast connecting Devipattam and Rameswaram. All along this road there were spacious rest houses for pilgrims.

There were many other minor roads unfit for wheeled traffic, but much used by local traders. There were no metalled road in 1848. The cart tracks were sandy, and traffic between the coastal areas and towns in the interior was very hazardous.

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<sup>1</sup>. Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency—1885—Page 366.

The three Departments referred to above, the Maramat Department, the Board of Revenue and the Engineering Department, shared the work of improving and maintaining the communications of the Presidency until 1858. In 1850, the Court of Directors, realising the need for public works in India appointed a Public Works Commission. The Commission after reviewing the work of the Maramat Department, the Board of Revenue, the Trunk Road Department and the Engineering Department submitted its report in 1852. This report brought to the notice of the Court of Directors the benefits to be derived by the State from the systematic and judicious expenditure of public money in the promotion of public works and brought to light many abuses in the execution of works. In the light of these facts, the Court of Directors set up the Public Works Department in the year 1858. A Chief Engineer assisted by several District Engineers was put in charge of the Department. But, however, it was felt that unless fresh taxation was resorted to, no material improvement can be effected in the means of communications. During the Great Revolt of 1857 the Department received meagre grants from Imperial Funds to maintain Trunk Roads which were then called Imperial Roads.

In 1866, the District Road Cess Act III was passed. This Act imposed a cess not exceeding half an anna in a rupee on the rent value of occupied land to form a fund for the construction and maintenance of District Roads.

By these developments, the communication facilities showed some improvement in Ramanathapuram District. By 1868 the District came to possess seven roads fully or partially metalled. They were Madurai to Cuvasakurichi via Nattam, Melur, the roads from to Tiruppattur, Sivaganga to Ramanathapuram, Kottambatti to Tiruppattur, Manalur to Tondi via Sivaganga, Manamadurai to Pamban via Ramanathapuram and the road leading from Madurai to Sayalgudi via Ramanathapuram.

The Local Funds Act of 1871, which repealed the District Road Cess Act of 1866, transferred the Road Cess Fund raised by the 1866 Act to the Local Fund Boards and authorised the local bodies to levy a cess similar to the District Road-Cess, but with a maximum of one anna in a rupee and to introduce a system of tolls upon roads. Two-thirds of the cess and the whole of the tolls were allotted for road development. But the Public Works Department continued to execute the works financed by these funds. From this period onwards the Government began to make regular annual contributions to the Local Fund Boards as grants-in-aid.

In the year 1879-80, another major step was taken in the field of communications. In that year the Government transferred the work of maintenance and construction of roads from the Public Works Department to the Local Fund Boards. These Boards then began to employ their own Engineering staff who were directly responsible to them. This measure was followed by the Local Boards Act of 1884. This Act brought about the creation of District and Taluk Boards. But not satisfied with the maintenance of roads by the Boards, the Government decided to interfere and direct by an executive order that the local bodies should not spend less than half of the income from their land cess upon roads. But in practice this method proved ineffective. So it was withdrawn in the year 1900 and the Government began to grant the local bodies 25 per cent of their land cess for the improvement of roads, in addition to the amount allotted to them from the Imperial Grant. The Government also began to sanction special grants for constructing roads and bridges. The Superintending Engineer of the Public Works Department was put in charge of the Trunk Roads, and the Collectors were made responsible for the maintenance of Second Class Roads. In the year 1930-31, the Motor Vehicles Act, which abolished the tolls, was passed. The Government paid compensation to the local bodies for the loss incurred by them<sup>1</sup>.

This step greatly benefited the merchants. They found cheaper and easier to transport produce by road rather than by rail and thus traffic on road increased considerably in the District.

The roads in Ramanathapuram came to be benefited by the activities of Madurai District Board. This Board maintained the majority of roads in the Madurai District prior to the constitution of Ramanathapuram District. The roads were kept in fair condition. The Zamindars and Inamdars in the District were paying an annual cess of about Rs. 60,000. But the needs of the District were not met. Raja Rama Rao, who was appointed Deputy Collector of Ramanathapuram Zamindari in 1873, wrote "the country is sadly wanting in roads, the consequences being that cart and foot traffic as well as communications are very much interrupted, in some instances Communications were cut off for days together during floods and heavy rains in the monsoon".<sup>2</sup> In addition to the work of the District Board, some works were executed out of the money collected from the pilgrims and contributions. The road from Pamban to Rameswaram which was laid during this period was one among them. In 1861 construction work of Tiruchirapalli

<sup>1</sup> G.O. No. 2436, Local Administration, dated 16th November 1945—Pages 5-9.

<sup>2</sup> Ramnad Manual.

Madurai Road, Tondi-Tiruppattur *via* Devakottai road and the Kamudi-Sayalgudi Road, began ; 17 bridges were built on the Tiruchirapalli-Madurai Road in the same year. A travellers' bungalow was built at Pamban<sup>1</sup>. In the year 1868 the portion of the Madurai-Travancore Road running across Sattur Taluk was metalled<sup>2</sup>. In the same year the Tondi-Tiruppattur Road was constructed. In the year 1869, the road connecting Devakottai, Tiruppattur and Nattam with Dindigul in Madurai District, the road connecting Pamban with Palghat *via* Ramanathapuram and the road connecting Srivilliputtur with Vaipour were declared Imperial Roads to be maintained by Imperial Funds<sup>3</sup>.

The Government became increasingly conscious of the growing need for roads due to the increasing volume of traffic. In 1927, the Council of States appointed a Committee to go into the question. This Committee pointed out the need for road development to facilitate marketing of agricultural produce, for bringing the villages closer to towns and for supplementing the railway lines by roads, all over the country. In 1933, the Madras Government decided to prepare a comprehensive programme to facilitate road development. For that purpose A. Vipan was appointed as a special officer and he submitted his report in 1935. He pointed out the inadequacy of funds in the hands of local bodies. In 1935 the District came to possess 806 miles of road, of which 623 miles of road was metalled. Seven hundred and ten miles of road was motorable. Vipan pointed out that in Ramanathapuram District, every 5.98 square miles of area was served by one mile of road, which was less than the Presidency average of 4.41. The only trunk road of the District, the 30 miles of the Great Southern Trunk Road was maintained by the District Board.

Vipan drew attention to the lack of communication facilities in Mudukulattur and Aruppukkottai taluks. Marketing centres like Mudukulattur, Tiruchuli and Partibanur were not well served by roads. Mudukulattur Taluk still retains much of the defects that Vipan pointed out. During the 1957 communal riots, the lack of communication facilities were acutely felt. The police were not able to reach the trouble spot immediately. As a result of this a number of roads were constructed. Aruppukkottai Taluk was also not well served by roads. It is a chief centre of cotton production. The claims of Mudukulattur Taluk in the matter of road development applies to this Taluk also. But while Aruppukkottai is served by railways, Mudukulattur is not.

<sup>1</sup> Report on the Administration of the Madras Presidency—1861-62, pages 76-77 1867-1868. Page 55.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1867-68, page 55.

<sup>3</sup> A. Vipan—Scheme for Road Development for Madras Presidency—1935. pages 150-155.

Vipan also pointed out that there was a definite lack of balance in the existing road system. On his recommendation, in 1937, the Government created a separate class of roads, called the Important Marketing Roads and thereafter began to grant subsidies for their maintenance subject to a maximum fixed for each district and subject also to the condition that the District Board should spend at least an amount equal to the grant from their own funds either on Important Marketing Roads or on Second Class Roads. After the Second World War, the need for better roads was acutely felt. This led to the conference of Chief Engineers at Nagpur (1943). A Special Officer, H. R. Dogra, was appointed to review road development in Madras and to draw up a Five Year-Post-War Development Plan for the construction of new National Highways, Provincial Highways, Major District roads and Village Roads, and to suggest repairs<sup>1</sup>. For the execution of this Five-Year Plan, Dogra suggested the establishment of a separate department for Highways, and the Highways Department was established in 1946. All roads classified as National Highways, Provincial Highways and important District Roads were taken over by this Department.

The following are the Trunk Roads that connect Ramanathapuram with other town :—

| <i>Name of Trunk Route.</i>                             | <i>Important towns in the District connected by the trunk route.</i> |
|---|--|
| 1. Benares-Cape-Comorin Road (National Highways No. 7). | 1. Virudhunagar.<br>2. Sattur.                                       |
| 2. Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road (National Highways No. 49). | 1. Manamadurai.<br>2. Paramagudi.<br>3. Ramanathapuram.              |
| 3. Manamadurai-Pudukkottai (State Highway).             | 1. Manamadurai.<br>2. Sivaganga.<br>3. Tiruppattur.                  |
| 4. Madurai-Tenkasi Road (State Highway)                 | 1. Rajapalayam.<br>2. Srivilliputtur.                                |

In Ramanathapuram District, in addition to the Great Southern Trunk Road (of which 29.5 miles lay in the District), the Madurai-Ramanathapuram Road was also declared a National Highway. The full length of that portion of Great Southern Trunk Road exclusive of one mile and five furlongs maintained by the Virudhunagar Municipality was taken over by the Government. This road had hitherto been maintained by the District Board. In addition, 12 roads classified as Important Marketing Roads, including the Madurai-Ramanathapuram Road which was declared

<sup>1</sup> G.O. Ms. No. 2486, Local Administration, dated 16th November 1945 (Report of Dogra).

a National Highway were taken over by the Government.<sup>1</sup>  
They were :—

| Road.                                       | Length in the District. |    |
|---|-------------------------|----|
|   | M.                      | F. |
| 1. Madurai-Devakottai .. .. .               | 32                      | 0  |
| 2. Madurai-Ramanathapuram (N.H. 49) .. .. . | 64                      | 0  |
| 3. Madurai-Aruppukkottai .. .. .            | 18                      | 0  |
| 4. Sarugani-Devakottai .. .. .              | 9                       | 6  |
| 5. Sivaganga-Tondi .. .. .                  | 42                      | 0  |
| 6. Ramanathapuram-Kilakkarai.. .. .         | 10                      | 3  |
| 7. Tenkasi to Madurai .. .. .               | 31                      | 0  |
| 8. Karaikkudi to Pudukkottai .. .. .        | 11                      | 5  |
| 9. Virudhunagar to Aruppukkottai .. .. .    | 10                      | 8  |
| 10. Sattur-Sivakasi .. .. .                 | 10                      | 3  |
| 11. Tiruppattur-Kunnakkudi .. .. .          | 8                       | 0  |
| 12. Managiri-Karaikkudi .. .. .             | 2                       | 7  |
| Total mileage ..                            | 250                     | 8  |

In the same way, 11 Second Class Roads with a total length of 176 miles and 6 furlongs were taken over from the local bodies by the Government. Out of the total length of 316 miles and 5 furlongs Second Class Roads, 176 miles and 6 furlongs long roads were taken over by the Government. The rest were left in the hands of the local bodies.

By 1950, the District came to possess 1,388 miles of roads which included 222 miles of municipal roads. The Post-war Road Development Scheme and the Local Development Scheme coincided with the First Plan period. Under these schemes there was a considerable increase in the mileage of roads during this period. By the end of the First Five-Year Plan the mileage increased to 1,562. Immediately after the communal riots of 1957, to ensure proper movement of Police and Officials, many new roads were constructed. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the total mileage in the District had increased to 1,739. During the First Five Year Plan, the National High way was extended from Ramanathapuram to Mantapam, 22 miles in length. Once again the Government took over from the District Board some roads with total mileage of 210 miles. In the Second Plan period, 82 miles of District Roads and 250 miles of Village Roads were laid. At a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs, 12 bridges of different sizes were constructed in the District. In 1957, the Public Works Department maintained 390 miles of black topped-road, 20 miles of cement concrete road and 252 miles of water-bound Macadam roads in the Ramanathapuram District. The local bodies in the District maintained 31 miles of black topped-road and 238 miles of water-bound Macadam roads.

<sup>1</sup> G.O.Ms. No. 2486, Local Administration, dated 16th November 1945 (Report of Dogra).



At present, Ramanathapuram District is served with a net work of roads working out to 0.47 mile per sq. mile of area as against the average of 0.53 for the whole State. The road system covers a total length of 2,269 miles of roads. Of this, 1,378 miles are under Highways Rural Works Department and 891 miles are under Panchayat Union and Panchayats. The executive control of improving and maintaining all the roads is in the hands of the Highways Department. Two National Highways and two State Highways run through this District. The National Highways constitute 119 miles and the State Highways 71 miles. The Major District Roads cover 637 miles and the rest are other District Roads and Village Roads. 25 miles of road are surfaced with C.C. pavement 636 miles are black topped, 862 miles metalled and the rest are unmetalled. Large sums of money are being spent annually by the Government and Panchayat Unions to maintain and improve these surfaces.

Among the different classes of roads, National Highways are the important one and they are maintained from the funds allotted by the Government of India. The following National Highways are in the Ramanathapuram District:

- (i) B.C.C. Road (N.H. 7) (Madurai Cape Comorin Section).
- (ii) Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road (N.H. 49).

The length of the B.C.C. road in the Ramanathapuram District is 31 miles and the length of Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road is 86 miles. The centre surface is black topped one. Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road connected Madurai Town, a commercial and religious centre and also Headquarters of Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts and Ramanathapuram Town and extends to Mantapam near the famous pilgrim centre of Rameswaram. The traffic intensity on the road is about 2,000 tons a day. The following State Highways are in the District :—

(a) Manamadurai-Tiruppattur Road and (b) Tenkasi-Madurai Road. They are Important Inter-District Roads with heavy traffic intensity of 1,000 tons and 4,000 tons respectively. To maintain the roads in good condition and to carry out original works like construction or reconstruction of bridges, the administration of this Department is carried out by two Divisional Engineers, one having the office at Sivaganga and the other at Sattur, with necessary Assistant Engineers, one for each taluk, and an Union Engineer for each Panchayat Union. To improve the net work of road communication in East Ramanathapuram area, several new roads have been formed or existing one improved under Security Measure Scheme, with a Special Divisional Engineer with headquarters at Kamudi.

There are several bridges and culverts in the District. Bridges are being inspected periodically by the Departmental Officers and repairs etc., are being attended to then and there.

There are Travellers Bungalows at Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai, Tondi, Tiruppattur, Poolankurichi, Mudukulattur, Sayalgudi, Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Sattur, Kariapatty and Palampatty. They are well furnished and are very much useful for all touring officers and the public.

**Road Construction:**—The materials for road construction are not lacking in the District. The soil consists of black cotton in the greater part of the District and gravel in the northern districts. Good varieties of granite are available in Sattur, Srivilliputtur and the major portions of the Aruppukkottai Taluk. This enable the roads to maintain them in a fair condition at a reasonable cost. In the south-western part of Sivaganga Taluk a good variety of limestone is obtained and granite is obtained in the extreme south-western corner of the same Taluk. Laterite is available in the Paramagudi and Tiruppattur taluks and granite is available in portions of Tiruppattur Taluk. Ramanathapuram and Tiruvadanai taluks lack the proper materials for road construction. But in the coastal areas lime stone is obtained. Mudukulattur Taluk has a good variety of lime stone, though in quality it is inferior to the variety that is obtained in Sivaganga Taluk. Due to the lead required for suitable materials, except Sattur, Srivilliputtur and portions of Aruppukkottai the cost of road maintenance is high<sup>1</sup>.

The following Roads are formed during the I Plan period :—

|  |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Distance.</i> |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|------------------|
|  |    |    |    |    |    | <i>M. Pgs.</i>   |
| 1. Road from Kottaipatti to Sivakasi-Kalugumalai | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 2              |
| 2. Illantharaikondan Kollankondan Road           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 3              |
| 3. Sattur Srivilliputtur Achamthavilthan Road    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 2              |
| 4. Melamadai Palavanatham Road                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 0             |
| 5. Samsigapuram Vadakarai Korkanpatti Road       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 0              |
| 6. Srivilliputtur Bypass Road                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1              |

The following Roads are formed during the II Plan period :—

|  |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. Road from Gollapatti to B.C.C. Road | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 2 |
| 2. Road from Soorankudi to Mettupatti  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 5 |
| 3. Road from Varalotti to Alagianallur | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 4 |
| 4. Road from Virudhunagar Bypass Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 4 |
| 5. Road from Viswanatham to V.R. 18    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1 |

<sup>1</sup>. Vipan—Op. cit.

*Modes of Transport on Roads:*—In the olden days most of the transport on roads was done by the beast. The salt traders of Ramanathapuram Coast used donkeys and horses to carry the salts inland. Cotton trade was carried on in similar way. Carts, single or double-bullocked, were used commonly and this practice persists even to-day. Horses were in great demand in ancient Tamilnad. All the local chiefs and also the Pandyan potentates purchased horses from the Arabs and later from the Portuguese. In addition to forming a part of the fighting force, it also played a vital part in the movement of troops. The wealthier persons used horses and palanquins for personal use. Tiruvudaiyar *alias* Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi (1711—1725), having decided to visit Rameswaram temple daily, maintained a constant relay of horses between Ramanathapuram and Tonitorai. The use of palanquins persisted till very recent times. They were used only by the aristocrats.

There were 85 motor cycles, 31 jeeps, 490 cars, 306 buses, and 467 trucks in the District up to March 1961.<sup>1</sup> In 1956, there were 48,822 carts in the District<sup>2</sup>.

#### FERRIES.

1. *Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi:*—The ferry starts from Rameswaram boat stand and reaches Dhanushkodi bathing ghat and returns. It plies during the months from May to October of each year. The to and fro charge per head is Rs. 1-25.

2. *Nagachi-Athangarai:*—The ferry plies from Nagachi to Athangarai. It was maintained by the Ramanathapuram District Board, and now it is being continued by Mantapam Panchayat Union. No charge is levied for transport of persons.

3. *Kottangudi Ferry:*—The ferry service at Kottangudi is near 1/4 mile of Tiruppullani—Sethukkarai Road and connects the villages of Panjanthangi, Thinaikulam, Pichanvalasai Agasthiartheertham, Koraikulam, Morkkulam Salt Factory, Valasainatham, Kanjirankadu and Sengalaneerodai. The ferry plies throughout the year. The ferry is 16' long, 2' broad and 2' to 3' deep. It can carry a maximum of 6 persons at a time during fair weather and it is worked by two adult men.

*Railways:*—The District is well served by the Southern Railway. There are six lines. They are Madurai-Dhanushkodi, Tiruchirapalli Manamadurai, Tiruthuraiipoondi-Manamadurai, Madurai-Tuticorin via Virudhunagar, Virudhunagar-Tenkasi and Virudhunagar-Manamadurai.

1. Annual Statistical Abstract for Madras State for 1960-61, Page 344.

2. Annual Statistical Abstract for Madras State for 1959-60, Page 261.

There are three junctions in the District. They are Virudhunagar, Manamadurai and Karaikkudi. All the lines are of metre gauge (33 $\frac{1}{2}$ ). The sharpest curve in the southern region of the Southern Railway occurs in the Pamban-Rameswaram section where it is 700 feet.

All the taluk headquarters except Tiruvadanai, Tiruppattur and Mudukulattur and the district headquarters are linked by railway. Mudukulattur and Tiruvadanai taluks are not served by railway.

*History of Railway Development:*—In 1872, the Great South Indian Railway Company came to possess a line up to Trichinopoly from Madras. On 12th March of the same year the Company was permitted by the Government of India to extend the line up to Tuticorin. While the works were in progress, the Great South Indian Railway Company was amalgamated with Carnatic Railway Company under the title of South Indian Railway Company. The portion of the line which cuts across the District was opened on 1st January 1876. The line which enters Ramanathapuram near Vadamalaikurichi and crosses the boundary near Nalli was the first railway line that was laid in the District. Next line that was laid was the one that connects Madurai with Mantapam. This line that touches Manamadurai, was opened to traffic on 1st August 1902. The length of this line is 89.39 miles. The line was further extended upto Rameswaram, a length of 7.04 miles was opened on 1st September 1906. Another line of 10.64 miles in length connecting Rameswaram Road with Dhanushkodi Jetty was opened on 10th December 1908. This line was subsequently extended 0.07 mile to connect the Dhanushkodi point on 1st December 1914. A line connecting Mantapam with Pamban—a distance of 3.12 miles was opened on 1st January 1914. The line that was connecting Trichinopoly and Pudukkottai was extended further to connect Pudukkottai with Manamadurai on 1st July 1930. By this connection Manamadurai attained the status of a junction. On 13th October 1927 a line of 6.77 miles in length was opened to connect Pamban with Rameswaram Road. On 30th June 1927, a line of 74.93 miles in length was opened to connect Virudhunagar with Tenkasi. This line linked Sivakasi, Srivilliputtur and Rajapalayam. By virtue of this line Virudhunagar became a junction.<sup>1</sup>

In 1935, the possibility for laying new railway lines was studied by the Government. Vipan, the Special Officer appointed to survey the road system in Madras in 1935, has discussed 5 new lines which would greatly benefit the Ramanathapuram District. Out of these five lines one, the Virudhunagar-Aruppukkottai line has been opened in 1963. Vipan has discussed the possibility of connecting Karaikkudi and Devakottai by a new line, covering a distance of 9 miles<sup>2</sup>. If this projected plan is to be executed it will greatly benefit Tiruvadanai Taluk which at present is not served by railway. The proposal

<sup>1</sup>. Government of India, *History of Indian Railways*, 1955, Pages 187-190.

<sup>2</sup>. Vipan—*Op. cit.*, Pages 16-17.

to link Karaikkudi and Madurai by a new line touching Melur (51 miles) was not finding favour with the Government. It was that the Second Class Road connecting these three places was serving the needs of the area sufficiently well. The idea to connect Karaikkudi with Arantangi, a distance of 16 miles by a new railway line was not favoured by the Railway Board which thought that the road system was serving the two places adequately. Another new line that was projected was to connect Manamadurai with Tuticorin via Maniyachi (69 miles). Three different alignments were proposed. They are the following

(1) A straight route from Manamadurai to Maniyachi via Virasolam and Nagalapuram;

(2) Another route running close to Abiramam through Kamudi, Peruvali and Vilathikulam and

(3) A third route taking off on the right side of Manamadurai and approaching, Tiruchuli within a few miles of it, then making a detour at Aruppukkottai to the east and after touching Kamudi running south ward parallel to alignment (2) within a few miles of it.

But they were not executed except the Karaikkudi-Arantangi line which was opened to traffic in 1952.

Thiru K. Kamaraj, the former Chief Minister, Government of Madras, opened for traffic the Virudhunagar- Aruppukkottai Section of Virudhunagar - Manamadurai Railway line on 5th September 1963, a length of 14.08 miles. The construction of the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai line was inaugurated by him on 4th February 1962. The Aruppukkottai - Manamadurai Section of Virudhunagar - Manamadurai line was opened to traffic on 25th May, 1964.

The southern districts of the Peninsula, viz., Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli are fast developing and new industries are springing up in these areas with consequent increase in transport demands. Rice from Thanjavur to Kerala has also to be moved on the Metre Gauge System in this area, and there is therefore, heavy pressure on the Tiruchirapalli-Madurai-Virudhunagar Section of the Metre Gauge. Due to the presence of stiff gradients between Kodaikanal Road and Dindigul on the Tiruchirapalli-Virudhunagar route, the capacity for movement here is limited, and two trains have got to be reformed into three. This is not merely uneconomical but leads to the holding up of traffic. Nearly half of the goods which are now coming to the south, via., Madurai Junction need not touch Madurai at all, as they are meant for Kerala. The section from Tiruchirapalli to Manamadurai is comparatively easy, and at present goods trains are diverted from Tiruchirapalli to Manamadurai and from thereon to Madurai. There is no space for expanding Madurai Junction either. The yard

facilities available at Madurai in general and the Marshalling Yard facilities in particular have been found totally inadequate for the volume of traffic entering this station. The Railway Yard is situated very near the heart of the city and there is practically no room for expansion. It is situated in the midst of a heavily built-up area with big spinning mills, viz., "Madura Mill" on one side and the station building on the other, and the city commencing almost outside the station building. The Railway yard is sandwiched between big industrial area on one side and the city on the other. The holding capacity for Madurai Yard is approximately 800 vehicles, and taking 50 per cent as working capacity it can handle only 400 vehicles. At present, the number of vehicles dealt by Madurai Yard exceeds the working capacity thereby creating a strain. Due to this, the marshalling of trains at Madurai cannot be done in the most efficient manner to avoid further shuntings enroute.

There are two routes from Tiruchirapalli, by which down traffic can be moved, viz., via Dindigul and Manamadurai. The Manamadurai-Virudhunagar link further accelerated the movement of traffic from Tiruchirapalli direct to Virudhunagar.

Virudhunagar was therefore an ideal place for erecting a Marshalling Yard. From here, it should be easy to sort out traffic for Tuticorin and Trivandrum sides. This work will relieve the congestion in Madurai Yard, with consequent economy in engine and wagon usage, apart from substantial reduction in detention to wagons enroute. The doubling of the line between Madurai and Virudhunagar was therefore dropped and the Marshalling Yard at Virudhunagar at a cost of Rs. 38,37,650 in combination with the Manamadurai link was decided upon as a means of solving this operational difficulty.

The proposed marshalling yard at Virudhunagar was originally sanctioned in Railway Board's sanction No. 60/5 w., R.M. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  of 29th June 1960 for Rs. 27,28,000 against item No. 268 of Revised preliminary works programme for 1958-59. The work was taken up for execution during the month of June 1960, after getting the various sub-works sanctioned by the competent authorities duly drawing out phase working programme in three stages.

The link between Manamadurai Junction and Virudhunagar Junction will enable to bypass Madurai Yard and the advantages of the large Marshalling Yard will be all the greater on account of this line.

Moreover there will be relief on the Tiruchirapalli—Madurai Section and full train loads without being split up can run through from Tiruchirapalli *via* this line to further South and Kerala. The Marshalling Yard at Virudhunagar was pressed into commission on 7th January 1963.

The doubling of the line between Madurai and Virudhunagar was therefore dropped and a Marshalling Yard at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs in combination with the Manamadurai link was decided upon as a means of solving this operational difficulty. When this line is completed there will be relief on the Tiruchirapalli-Madurai Section and full train loads without being split up can run through from Tiruchirapalli via this line to further South and Kerala.

The Marshalling Yard includes on traffic side three reception lines three despatch lines, eight marshalling lines and one brake, van siding and on the mechanical side, two train examiner's lines, one sick brake van siding and a triangle and a siding with all necessary accessories like water column, ash pits, examining pit, etc.

Originally YP and YG Class engines could not be turned on the present 50' diameter, turn table and the proposed triangle, eliminates this difficulty. With this development if a chord line is laid from Virudhunagar to Manamadurai, it saves a distance of 13 miles and also relieves congestion, in Madurai yard. The construction of this line, in addition to being a very vital link for the transport of through traffic to Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and to Kerala, will also develop the interior of Ramanathapuram district. With the development of Tuticorin Port an era of rapid industrialisation in this area has commenced and it is only in the fitness of things that the construction of the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai link has been progressed so rapidly.

Aruppukkottai is an important taluk headquarters and the opening of this section will be very beneficial to the public of this area and to the people of Aruppukkottai in particular. With the completion of this length upto Aruppukkottai and Manamadurai, most of the major works would have been completed. There are six major bridges in this reach between Aruppukkottai and Manamadurai and they are also practically complete except for steel girders which are expected during the course of this year. With the receipt of steel girders in time, it is expected that the remaining length from Aruppukkottai to Manamadurai can also be opened early so as to run through goods trains from Tiruchirapalli to Virudhunagar on this Chord line. The remaining length between Aruppukkottai and Manamadurai will have four stations, Puliuran, Tiruchuli and two other stations near Narikudi and Kadambankulam. It is interesting to go through the history of this line. This line was part of the alignment of the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai-Ramanathapuram line which was first surveyed in the year 1909. In 1928, the citizens of Aruppukkottai went in deputation to the Agent of the Ex-South Indian Railway for the construction of this bit.

A traffic report then showed the return of 5.76 per cent on a capital cost of Rs. 7.51 lakhs. The report was submitted in 1930. On that, the Railway Board made the following remarks :—

“The return expected of 5.76 per cent is not one that can be considered remunerative at the present moment when money has to be raised in the open market at over 6 percent, and apart from this, there is very little likelihood of the Government of India being able to finance this project in the near future and the Railway Board therefore consider that no useful purpose will be served by further investigation or further consideration of it for the present.”

The idea was again revived in 1956, but the proposed survey was dropped owing to the shortage of personnel. The survey of this line was taken up in January 1962 and completed in May 1962. The work had commenced in certain major bridges early in 1962 and the project costing 2.31 crores was sanctioned in August, 1962. The earth work and other bridge works were taken up during September 1962. This work was not included in the list of projects to be taken up in the Second Plan. This was not even included in the draft of the Third Five-Year Plan. But to-day it is a fact a cherished dream-comes true at a cost of Rs. 2.31 crores.

|                       |                  |       |    |       |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------|----|-------|----------------|
| Cost of the Project   | Rs. 2.31 crores. | ..    | .. | ..    | 2.31 crores.   |
| Number of bridges     | ..               | Major | 6  | Minor | 126            |
| Quantity of earthwork | ..               | ..    | .. | ..    | 400 lakhs cft. |
| Quantity of masonry   | ..               | ..    | .. | ..    | 9 lakhs cft.   |
| Steel work involved   | ..               | ..    | .. | ..    | 200 tons.      |

One important feature of this construction has been the readiness with which the land owners of this area gave consent for going ahead with the work in their land, a fact which considerably expedited the work. The State Government also have been very helpful in this matter.

There are six stations between Virudhunagar and Manamadurai, and on the length being opened we have two stations, viz., Mallanginar and Aruppukkottai. At Aruppukkottai, all modern amenities have been provided including water-borne sanitation, upper class waiting rooms and a platform shelter.

The Tiruchirapalli Dhanushkodi line was opened in stages. First the Tiruchirapalli-Manamadurai line was opened on . . . The line connecting Manamadurai Junction with Mantapam was opened on



1st September 1902. Pamban on the mainland which was only three miles away from Madhavapuram was connected by rail on 1st January, 1914. Dhanushkodi at the far east end of the Rameswaram was connected by rail on 1st December, 1914. The ferry service between Dhanushkodi Point and Talaimanar in Ceylon was inaugurated a little earlier on 24th February 1914. Passengers to Ceylon who had previously travelled to Tuticorin for taking their boat, now made their journey to Dhanushkodi and took the boat from Dhanushkodi pier.

**Areas accessible by :—**

| Rail only.                                     | Road only. | Rail and Road. | Neither. |
|--|------------|----------------|----------|
| (as percentage of total area of the District.) |            |                |          |
| 17.2   | 17.1       | 31.6           | 34.1     |

The intensity of road traffic according to a rough estimate based on the number of lorries registered and the average load carried by them during the year 1956-57, and the rail traffic in the same year both inward and outward, were 150 and 302 thousand tons respectively. The percentage of road traffic as per railway traffic was 49.7<sup>2</sup>.

**CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE RAILWAY SERVICE AND THE STEAMER SERVICE.**

At Mantapam Camp Station the passengers bound for Ceylon are examined with regard to the possession of pass-ports, visa, health certificates, income-tax exemption certificate and in respect of foreigners whether they have stayed for more than 90 days in India. Thereafter the passengers are allowed to proceed to Dhanushkodi where the custom examination is done. After all these examinations, the passengers are allowed to travel to Ceylon or other parts outside India.

The Southern Railway maintains two steamers, namely, T.S.S. "Irwin" and T.S.S. "Goschen" for running the ferry service between Dhanushkodi (India) and Talaimanar (Ceylon). The ferry services are controlled by the Marine Superintendent at Mantapam, and the steamers are berthed at Dhanushkodi pier only. The headquarters of the Marine Superintendent is Mantapam. The distance between Talaimanar and Dhanushkodi is 21 miles.

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1. Techno-Economic Survey of Madras, 1961 Pages 173,

2. *Ibid.*, Page 167.

Ordinarily the running time is two hours. During storm the trip is cancelled. Each steamer is capable of carrying about 500 passengers. The ferry services are run for three days in a week from Dhanushkodi, namely, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and from Talaimanar to Dhanushkodi on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The steamer generally starts from Dhanushkodi pier between 16-00 hours to 16-45 hours. The steamer's departure depends upon the arrival of the Madras-Dhanushkodi Boat Mail. The arrival of the steamer from Talaimanar depends upon the time of the departure at Talaimanar. If the steamer arrives at Dhanushkodi at scheduled time, the Boat Mail will connect the steamers. Yearly, about 6 lakhs of passengers are travelling between Dhanushkodi and Talaimanar.

### PORTS.

From time immemorial the ports of Ramanathapuram coast have been well-known to the foreign-traders. Travellers like Ptolemy, Abul Fida, Ibn Batuta and Marco Polo have mentioned Tondi and Pasipatnam among the great ports of coromandel. In olden days it was known as Cholan-Tondi so as to distinguish it from another Tondi on the west-coast known as Cheran-Tondi. In *Silapadhikaram* there is a reference to the huge ships carrying different kinds of incense, silk, sandal and camphor about to cast anchor in the Tondi port and unload these articles to be presented to the Pandyan King. Ptolemy referred Tondi as *Tyadis* and Abul Fida referred Tondi as *Thandiyur*. Another traveller Dimishqi referred to Tondi as *Thanda*. The unknown author of "the Periplus of the Erythrean Sea" has also referred to Tondi.

During the Ceylonese invasion of Ramnad country in 1170 A.D. the Ceylon General Lankapura Dandanayaka held Tondi for a brief period. Tondi had been serving as an exit to Ceylon from earliest times. It was also a centre of ship building industry. But now the industry has almost vanished.

At present, Tondi is a very insignificant port in Tiruvadanai Taluk. It is open to both coastal and foreign trade. The bay is shallow and hence steamers and square rigged vessels anchor at about 3 to 5 miles from the shore. The limits of the port from the north and the south are indicated distinctly by two boundary pillars three quarters of a mile to the north and south of the Customs and Port Offices. The character of the bottom at Tondi port is sand and mud. This port had been a first port of entry for steamers and sailing craft from Burma till 1940. Since then it has lost its significance. There is no passenger traffic and hence there is no quarantine regulations. But few of the cargo steamers and vessels going to foreign ports are examined by local port Health Officer who is also the Medical Officer of the locality.

There is a kerosene oil light house maintained at the port which is visible at a distance of 10 miles. The port is controlled by the Port Conservator. There is a committee comprising of the Port Conservator, the Customs Collector of Tondi with four other non-official members drawn from among the local merchants, called the Landing and Shipping Fees Committee. The staff of the Port Office consists of the Port Conservator, and two Assistant Light-house keepers-cum-signallers. There is a second class Meteorological Observatory at this port manned by the port staff. In the pre-war days timber from Burma was the usual article of import. Now, there are coast wise imports such as coconuts from Pamban and Adirampatnam; rice, paddy, kerosene oil and other articles from Tuticorin or Nagapatnam and tiles from Calicut and Quilon. There was once a regular bi-weekly passenger steamer service connecting Tondi and Ceylon carrying about 200 people prior to the opening of Dhanushkodi-Talaimanar route. Opening of the Railway line in the year 1914 from Madurai to Dhanushkodi has affected the trade in this port to a considerable extent since then the passenger and goods traffic have been completely diverted to this route. Now the port is mainly a fishing centre. Small vessels visit now and then.

Vattanam, formerly a sub-port of Tondi, is situated near Tondi. Formerly, when a salt factory used to be there, it was of some importance. Now it has lost its importance. Theerthandanatham and Pudupatnam which were also serving as sub-ports to Tondi, have gone into oblivion. Pasa or Pasipatnam, another old port, was once a thriving centre of trade along with Tondi.

Devipatnam is only next to Tondi in importance. This port is situated nearly midway between Toni and Pamban. Ramanathapuram which is situated 10 miles south-west of Devipatnam, is the nearest Railway Station. The trade now carried on in this port is insignificant and only sailing vessels call at this port. To the north there is a point called *Kanu Mondel* which extends about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles sea wards. It is only beyond this point that loaded vessels can safely pass as the depth of the water is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 fathoms. This port is also a place of pilgrimage and is known as *Nava Pashanam* which means nine planets. This name is derived from the nine stones in the sea that lie close to the shore which are said to represent the nine planets.

The port was closed to foreign trade in 1923 and is now open to coastal trade only. It carries on trade with the ports in the northern side up to Madras and with Tuticorin on the south-west. The chief articles of import are paddy and rice from Tondi, Adirampatnam, Ammapatnam, Kottaiapatnam and Nagapatnam, wood and timber from Tondi and coral stone from Rameswaram. Gingili oil and other articles are exported to Ammapatnam; *chank* shells to Adirampatnam, Madras and Tuticorin; woven palm-leaves (*Keethu*) to Tondi; earthen ware, straw and paddy to Rameswaram.

There is a custom house in this port. There is a *chatram* here, which is owned by the Raja of Ramanathapuram. This is unfurnished and no rent is charged. This port is connected with Ramanathapuram by a bus service.

#### PAMBAN.

Pamban is an important port situated on the south-western corner of Rameswaram Island opposite to the mainland from which it is separated by the Pamban Strait which connects the Palk Strait on the north with the Gulf of Manar on the south. This port gives a well protected anchorage for large native crafts during the monsoons. Vessels usually anchor on the southern side of the reef during the north-east monsoon and on the northern side during the south-west monsoon. The sea is shallow and rocky in places and therefore the vessels entering the port have to anchor about a mile from the shore. On the southern side, the island of Kurusadi protects the anchorage off the Kundugal point and the vessels can lie up here for repairs. The ship-way which was constructed by the South Indian Railway Company at this point and which is large enough to take their turbine steamers used in the daily service between Dhanushkodi and Talaimanar was abandoned and a new dry-dock has been constructed by the South Indian Railway Company in the Gulf of Manar at Mantapam in July 1930.

The Strait is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide at the narrowest point between Pamban and Mantapam. A channel with a breadth of 200 feet has been dredged in the Strait. It does not silt up rapidly owing to the rocky nature of its bed, but occasionally a dredger is requisitioned from Tuticorin. Sailing vessels and steamers of 1,000 tons gross-weight can pass through the channel. At present, sailing vessels only pass through the channel, from ports on the east to ports on the west and vice versa thus avoiding the necessity of rounding Ceylon.

Previously there were nine wharves and jetties both Government owned and private, scattered over the Island. But subsequently this number has been reduced to six. Access from one to the other is not easy owing to the intervening stretch of sea and the channel and to the distance between wharves extending to nearly three miles. In addition to the wharves and jetties, there are two sub-ports also which are used for the shipment and landing of coast-wise goods. Shipment of firewood is allowed at Pallimatam on the west, Thanga-chchimatom on the east and Seeniappa Pallivasal on the south-west.

There is a light house as well as Meteorological Station to the north-east of the Custom-House under the control of the Port Department. The light is exhibited at an elevation of 94 feet from a white masonry tower 67 feet in height on a sandy hill on the north-western point of Rameswaram Island. It is an automatic light and is visible about 14 miles in all directions.

Prior to the opening of the Indo-Ceylon railway line all the Indo-Ceylon trade was concentrated in this port. The main items of export from this small port are turtles and coral stones which are exported to Jaffna and Colombo respectively. After the introduction of the ferry service from Dhanushkodi this port has gone down in importance. Coconuts and palmyra products are the main items of import.

Previously, cargo as well as passengers from the ports in Ceylon were brought by steamers and sailing vessels direct to Pamban. Thus before the opening of the Indo-Ceylon railway line, this port was a very busy one and a considerable amount of import and export duty was collected. The opening of the Indo-Ceylon communication has diminished the significance of the port.

Thus the year 1914 formed a landmark in the history of Pamban. Pilgrims who travelled to and from Rameswaram by boat from Mantapam before the opening of the railway line between Dhanushkodi and Mantapam, now go by train. The distance between Rameswaram and Mantapam bathing ghat is only 15 miles. Boats are allowed to take pilgrims from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi bathing ghat under special permit for six months from April to October, each year since 1918. During the north-east monsoon the boats cannot ply owing to the rough sea.

Opening of the Railway line from Madurai to Mantapam has affected the trade in the port to a great extent. In the year 1914, the South Indian Railway Company extended the Railway line up to Dhanushkodi by the construction of a viaduct over the reef between Mantapam and Pamban with a Cantilever-Scherzer bridge over the Pamban channel giving a clear 200 feet passage to let craft through and opened the steamer service between Dhanushkodi and Talaimanar. This extension was opened to passenger traffic in January 1914 and to goods traffic on the 14th September 1914. Since then the passenger and goods traffic from Ceylon ports have been entirely diverted to that route. The boats at Pamban are merely engaged in taking coral stones, firewood, coconuts, rice, etc., from and to Tuticorin and other ports.

Rameswaram Island on which Pamban is situated was once a part of the main land. In the year 1480 A D., a violent storm breached the isthmus and that subsequent storms rendered the breach permanent resulting in the formation of Rameswaram Island.

*Pamban Channel*.—It is an artificial channel affording means of communication between India and Ceylon. The main pass consists of a cutting through sand-stone rock and dredging through a horse-shoe sand bank on the Gulf of Manar side of it. The passage was formerly impassable for ships as there were obstructions by two parallel ridges of rock about 140 yards apart. The more northerly of these ridges was the higher of the two and used to appear above water at high tide. The space in between was occupied by a confused

mass of rocks lying for the most part parallel to the ridges and in horizontal strata. A survey of the passage began in 1822, and experiment in blasting and removing the rocks were undertaken in 1828. The first scientific marine survey was conducted in 1837. The charts made on this occasion still remain as the standard authority. Operations for deepening and widening the channel commenced in 1838. By 1844 the channel had been deepened to 8 feet of water at low spring tides and two men of war were able to pass through. In 1854 the uniform depth was  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet and the passage was navigable for keeled vessels of 200 tons. The channel cannot be extended further due to the shallow character of neighbouring coast. Blasting and dredging operations have since been carried on regularly and the main channel through the larger reefs of rocks has been carried down to minimum depth of 14 feet. Its length is 4,232 feet and its width is 80 feet.

*Pamban Viaduct:*—The question of opening a rail communication between India and Ceylon was under consideration as early as 1876. In 1910 sanction was given to the proposal for bridging the Pamban Pass. Several schemes were considered, but in 1912 it was finally decided to build a viaduct with Scherzer lift bridge over the Palk Strait to provide a ferry service between Dhanushkodi on the Rameswaram Island and Talaimanar on the Manar Island, near Ceylon. The Pamban Viaduct is built on the line of sandstone reef over 6,740 feet long which connects the mainland and island of Rameswaram at Pamban. The reef has an average depth of 6 or 7 feet of water over it. At the Pamban end of the reef, a channel was cut in 1837 by the Royal Engineers to permit the passage of coasting vessels with draft limited to 12 feet. The approach through the northern entrance is marked by a buoy from which the light house bears about seven cables distance east of south. At Pamban, the sea level is affected more by winds than by tide.

The Pamban Viaduct is 6,740 feet long and consists of 145 spans of 40 feet sheet girders with a clearance of 214 feet leaf Scherzer rolling lift bridge spanning the Pamban Pass. All the stone and concrete metal used for the bridge were brought by rail from a quarry 170 miles away. Sand for building purpose, not being procurable locally, was railed from a place 70 miles away. Work was begun in June, 1911 and the last pier was completed in May, 1913. During this period work had to be closed down for about six months owing to the storms and rough weather experienced during the north-east monsoon. Thus exclusive of the Scherzer bridge the Viaduct was built in 18 months.

Four thousand tons of cement, 1,36,000 cubic feet of clay, 18,000 cubic feet of crushed metal, 1,03,000 cubic feet of sand, 80,000 cubic feet of boulders and 2,600 tons of steel work were among the materials used in the construction of the Viaduct. The Scherzer bridge was begun in July 1913 and completed by December of the same year.

*Scherzer Bridge-Pamban Viaduct:*—The Viaduct is constructed over the Palk Strait to join the mainland and the Island for the passage of trains. Through the Strait, small coasting steamers and merchant vessels are allowed to pass. At the spot, a bridge of 214 feet long has been constructed that has two leaves which are lifted for the passage of vessels and lowered for the passage of trains. This is the Scherzer Rolling-Lift Bridge. Normally, it is lowered for the passage of trains and is only opened whenever required for the passage of vessels through the Straits. For the passage of trains, it must be proved that the lifting portion is set in its normal position, to ensure which, safety arrangements which are described hereunder are provided:

The lifting of the bridge has to be controlled effectively. Lifting is done by means of winches on each side of the lifting span. The winch is normally locked by means of a mechanical lever in the operation cabin. This lever is controlled electrically by another lever called the King Lever provided in a three lever frame. The other two levers are for operating the *up* and *down* signals. The mechanical interlocking between the levers is such that when any one is reverted the other two are locked.

The King Lever has three positions, normal, middle and reverse. The lever has an electrical lock which should be energised for operating the lever. The King Lever controls the Token Block Instruments on either side at Pamban and Mantapam, which is a Block Section. In the normal position of the King Lever the Block Line is through. Conversely, the King Lever is controlled by the Block Instruments.

The Port Officer, Pamban, is the authority for the passage of vessels, who will requisition the Operator for lifting the bridge through telephone communication between him and the Operator. The Bridge Operator, on receipt of information will communicate with Pamban and Mantapam. The station masters at either end will accord permission if there are no trains to pass. On receipt of the permission, the Operator will bring the King Lever to the mid-position when the station masters will give a prolonged beat on their respective Block Instrument. The mid-position of the King Lever cuts off the Block Line and communication on either side of the respective polarised relays in the cabin. The polarised relay circuit is closed by the prolonged beat, which is necessary to give time for the Operator to move the King Lever from mid to reverse position deflecting the needle to the right. Local contact in the relay, close the lock circuit which when energised, releases the King Lever so that it can be brought to the reverse position, thus disconnecting the above mentioned circuits. The position of the King Lever releases the Mechanical Lever which in turn releases the winch lock, thus enabling the bridge leaves to be lifted up. After the passage of the vessel, the bridge leaves are lowered down and brought to normal position for the passage of train.

Here another assurance is necessary, viz., that the leaves are brought home and locked for the safe passing of trains.

To achieve this there are two equipments, one on the nose end of the bridge, at the place where the two leaves are brought together, and the other at the heel end of the leaf of Pamban side. These two contacts when brought home which will only be when the leaves are set in proper and safe position, close the lock circuit of the King Lever, thus enabling the same to be brought from mid to the normal position, which in turn locks the Mechanical Lever and the winch, thus preventing the leaves being disturbed.

The King Lever is free from normal to middle and from reverse to middle position. When the section, Pamban-Mantapam is blocked for a train, the prolonged beat on the respective Block Instruments will not close the lock circuit of the King Lever thus preventing the operation of the bridge while a train is in the section.

Dried fish, firewood, coconuts, coral stones and chunam are the local products of Pamban. Paddy and rice are imported from Tuticorin.

There are four islands attached to this port, they are Shingle, Kurusadai, Palli and Manali islands. Dried fish and coconuts are shipped from Manali island, which lies  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Pamban. There is a Government Fisheries Office at Kurusadai.

Rameswaram, a great pilgrim centre for the Hindus, serves also as a sub-port to Pamban. The constant arrival of pilgrims, the trade in rice, coral, timber, coconut, collection of coral stones and chanks and the Pamban Viaduct all go to make this small port, an important one.

The marine sand-stones that exist as a fringe to the coast on both sides of Ramanathapuram Peninsula and to Rameswaram Island, beyond the Pamban channel, are said to constitute the ridge which under the name Adam's Bridge divides Palk's Bay from the Gulf of Manar and stretches to the sea. A coral reef high and dry on Rameswaram proves a comparatively recent upheaval of the Coast. Bruce Foote, the archaeologist, believes that Ceylon was thus connected with the mainland "in times late enough to come within the perview of tradition". The rupture of communications has been less due to subsidence than to the breaching of the causeway by the waves. The last breach which created the Pamban channel is a historical event, which took place in 1480 A.D.<sup>1</sup>. And thus Dhanushkodi has come to be the stepping board to Ceylon.

Dhanushkodi, a sub-port of Nagapatnam, is situated in the eastern top of the Rameswaram Island, and is nearly 18 miles from the Port of Pamban and about 12 miles from the town of

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1. Logan A.C.—Old Chipped Stone of India, 1906, pages 17-18.



**Rameswaram<sup>1</sup>.** The new Indo-Ceylon railway route was opened for passenger traffic on February 24th, 1914, after the construction of a suspense bridge between Pamban and Mantapam, over a distance of nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Since then in addition to the passenger traffic, most of the Indo-Ceylon trade that was carried on by ports like Pamban and Tuticorin have been diverted to this route. The port handles about 1,100 tons cargo per year.

Extending from the south-eastern strip of Rameswaram towards Manar Island in Ceylon is Adam's Bridge, a narrow bridge of sand and rocks mostly dry with intricate channels in which the average depths varies between three and four feet. During the south-west monsoon, the southern coast of Rameswaram Island for a length of approximately 3 miles from lands end is exposed to violent swells from the Indian Ocean. Waves approach this stretch from about west-south-west. Breakers attain usual heights of about 6 feet. This oblique waves and the continuous monsoon winds on the shore cause erosion along this stretch of the coast at a rapid rate. Already, several houses, temples and often property on the coast have been lost to the sea. The net erosion is stated to be about 50 feet per annum. There is a strong current of about 4 knots towards the north over Adam's Bridge past lands end during the period of south-west monsoon.

There is a pier at the northern side of the port in the Gulf of Manar. The ferry boats anchor at the pier. The southern Railway trains run on the pier thus affording facilities for the passengers from the trains to board the ferry conveniently. There was another pier at the southern side of the port, over Palk Strait which has been abandoned. Owing to the existence of the reef "the Devil's point" off the north-east corner of the island, navigation of sailing vessels require very great caution. This port does not possess any light house.

Dhanushkodi forms a terminus of the Southern Railway. A regular ferry steamer service connects the trains with the Port of Talaimanar in Ceylon. The Indo-Ceylon Boat Mail connects Dhanushkodi with Madras and the Ceylon Government Railway connects Talaimanar with Colombo City. The ferry steamers take about 2 hours to cross the sea between Talaimanar and Dhanushkodi. As the gate way from India to Ceylon, this port is very important. There is very little coast-wise trade in this port; the trade is mostly with Ceylon. The chief articles of foreign imports are arecanuts, sugar, coconuts, machinery, tea, raw hides and skins, spices, empty jute gunny bags and oil seeds. The bulk of the export trade consists of rice, onion, cotton piece goods, salted fish, tea, coffee, oil cakes, bones and bone meal, vegetables and fish manure.

1. Report on the Minor Ports of India and Development works at each port under the First and Second Five-year Plan.

*Kilakkarai* is another port situated in the Gulf of Manar between Pamban and Tuticorin. It is about 11 miles from Ramanathapuram. About 75 years ago, this port was a flourishing one, but began to decline in importance after the opening of the railway line to Tuticorin. The Madurai-Pamban Railway line and its subsequent extension to Dhanushkodi also adversely affected this port. Formerly almost all articles for Ramanathapuram and the adjacent areas were shipped to Kilakkarai. But now they are brought by rail to Ramanathapuram and as a result trade has diminished to a great extent in this port.

Traders from the Middle East countries assembled in this port from very early times. Horses were imported from Arabia. Since the climate here was not conducive to the breeding of these animals, they were usually imported in large numbers even by the Pandya Kings. Many Arabs settled down here. When Malik Kafur came to Rameswaram on his raid in 1311A.D., he found a number of Arab settlement here. Even now, Kilakkarai is predominantly Muslim in population and there are a few very old mosques here.

At present, the port carries on very little foreign trade which is exclusively with Jaffna, Kaits, Talaimannar, Nagambo and Colombo. Chanks are imported from Kaits and are exported to Calcutta and Dacca for the manufacture of chank bangles. The bulk of export trade to foreign countries consists of Soap-sand or Fuller's Earth. Soap-sand brought from Sivaganga in carts and from here they are shipped to Colombo direct or *via* Tuticorin. Coastal trade is mainly carried on with Tuticorin. The chief articles of coast wise import are rice, paddy, cotton-seeds, and grains of all sorts. The chief articles of export are fire wood, chank, chank beads, palmyra fibres, soap-sand and coconut. Firewood is exported in large quantities from this port to Tuticorin and the trade is carried on throughout the year. Chanks are also exported to Bombay *via* Tuticorin. Palmyra fibres are collected from villages in the coastal area and shipped to Tuticorin.

In this port, there is no light house or light of any kind. The sea is always calm and affords a safe anchorage to vessels calling at the port. There are islands to a few miles south of the port which act as break-waters. The sea is shallow, but there is a channel about 2 miles wide, starting from *Valinokkam* point, 13 miles south-west, running between the shore and the islands as far as Pamban, a distance of 43 miles. This is called Kilakkarai channel. All vessels of 3 feet draught and above are in charge of pilots, when sailing to and from Pamban. Buses connect Kilakkarai with Ramanathapuram. There is only one sub-port, that is Muthupettai, which is situated 13 miles from the port. There is very little landing and shipping at this sub-port.

*Sethusamudram Project*:—The object of the Sethusamudram Project is to cut a Channel across Adam's Bridge to connect the Gulf of Manar with the Palk Bay in order to shorten and improve the sea route between the west and the east coasts of

India. Through this canal, ships up to 30' draft can navigate with safety and avoid going in a round about route around and South of Ceylon, which is vulnerable to adverse weather conditions. It reduces the distance from off cape comorin (a common point) for all traffic from the west to Madras, Visakhapatnam and Calcutta by 353, 295 and 259 nautical miles respectively. It has been found from the reports submitted by Thiru C V. Venkateswaran, consultant, appointed by the Government of India and Thiru R. Natarajan, I.A.S., Project Officer, Sethusamudram Project, that the Sethusamudram Project is economically viable and technically feasible. Out of the several alignments considered the Mantapam alignment and the Rameswaram alignment were found to be feasible. Of these two alignments, Rameswaram alignment is shorter and cheaper than the Mantapam alignment (the estimated cost of which are Rs. 55.60 crores and 37.50 crores respectively). Hence the Rameswaram alignment has been preferred in the reports. It is expected that a net revenue of Rs. 162 lakhs would be derived within a year or two after the opening of the canal, mostly in foreign exchange.

*Uchchipuli Aerodrome:*—There is one aerodrome at Uchchipuli, Ramanathapuram Taluk which is now in disuse. The particulars of this aerodrome are given below:—

It is situated three miles West of Uchchipuli on the Ramanathapuram-Mantapam motorable road. There is no fuelling facilities at this aerodrome. It is a fair weather circular air field of 732 M. (2,400 feet). Its co-ordinates are 0919 N.7858 E. Its elevation is 4 M (14 feet) AMSL. This air field was laid in about the year 1937 and it was mostly used during war time. It is said that no plane landed on it after the war. The excess extent of the air field has been leased out for cultivation under the Grow More Food Campaign.

*Rest-Houses and other travel facilities:*—The early pilgrim route to Rameswaram passed through Ramanathapuram. Choultries and rest houses were constructed under the auspices of nobles and kings for the convenience of the pilgrims. They considered it as an act of piety to build and endow a *chatram* (as the choultries are referred to in vernacular). At Rameswaram itself, there are numerous *chatrams* built and endowed by nobles and by the Sethupathis. Probably, they built the *chatrams* to commemorate their pilgrimage to Dhanushkodi. It seems that they also had the notion that some such act of charity should be done in their names at Rameswaram or on the roads leading there to. Many of these *chatrams* are now under the management of the founders' heirs or their agents.

These *chatrams* were built with the chief object of feeding the pilgrims coming to Rameswaram from all parts of India. Before the opening of the South Indian Railway, the pilgrims from northern parts travelled through the road from the Thanjavur District passing through Kottapatnam, Veerasangilimadam, Uppoor, Devipatnam,

Attangarai, etc. Those from the south used to take the route from Tirunelveli District through Kadugusanthai, Sikkil, Alagamu and Ramanathapuram. And the pilgrims from the west took the road along Vaigai via Paramagudi, Pugalore and Ramanathapuram. After the railway line was opened, the number of pilgrims enormously increased. Now, all the pilgrims use the railway, except those who come in private vehicles or who come from nearer places.

To meet the sudden rise in the number of pilgrims the scale of charities in the *chatrams* also went up. New *chatrams* sprang up along the Madurai-Pamban road. Cooked as well as raw rice are served there. To meet the additional expenses incurred in these *chatrams*, the income of the *chatrams* in less frequented roads was utilised.

#### POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Before 1795, when the kingdom of Ramanathapuram was in the hands of Sethupathis, there was no postal system worth mentioning. They and the nobles, employed private messengers who travelled on horses. Robert Clive of the East India Company had introduced a postal system to operate in the Company's territory in 1766. When the Ramanathapuram kingdom passed under British control, it was extended to Ramanathapuram also. According to this system the zamindars or the land lords along the various routes were held responsible for this service. A deduction was made in their rents in proportion to the number of runners supplied. The zamindar and other land lords were held responsible for local posts between police stations and head quarters. Collectors were responsible for post offices and mail lines within the limits of their own jurisdiction. Travellers bungalows on various routes were also under the post office.

On July 24th 1837, the Government assumed the exclusive right to convey letters for hire in the territories of the East India Company. Inside the Ramanathapuram Zamin, the work was carried on by runners employed by the zamindars on behalf of the East India Company. A few Government post offices were also established inside the Zamin. The land holders had to pay a cess to maintain the local postal system. Out of the Act of 1837, there grew a dual system of posts, the Imperial Post, which controlled all the main routes and large offices, and the District Post which was entirely local and controlled the rural services in each district. The system that was in the Zamindars of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga was thus the District Post. To begin with, it was maintained primarily for the conveyance of official correspondence but subsequently it was also made available for private correspondence.

But the system had numerous lacunae in it. There was no co-ordinate head to control the department. The dawks consisted of a few main lines of runners connecting the principal towns in the District with the headquarters. A small fee was paid as postage with the letter to be delivered at the Post Office. The Postman delivered the letters and brought back the signatures of the addressees in the list. The addresses on all articles and letters passing through the Post Office were also recorded the postage was paid in cash and it varied according to the distance.

In the year 1854, uniform postage rates irrespective of distance and printed postages were introduced. All the Post Offices in India were placed under a Director General. District Post continued to operate. It had its own funds. Where there was no regular post office, the District Post set up its office and levied a surcharge in addition to the postage paid to the regular post. The Collector of the district was authorised to utilise the money accrued from the District Post for the improvement of the same. The District Offices were connected with Taluk Offices housed in the taluk head quarters. Between these offices post was carried by District Post Office peons. The delivery into out lying villages were carried on by a system known as Rural Delivery. This establishment consisted of a staff of travelling peons, whose beats were so arranged that they had to visit each village in the taluk once, twice or thrice a week or daily, according to the importance of the village, its accessibility and funds. The Revenue Department controlled the District Post. In 1876, Post Cards were introduced. The system of postal insurance was introduced in 1878 and that of value payable articles in 1877. Money Orders were introduced in 1880 and Postal Saving in 1882.

By the end of the 19th Century Ramanathapuram Zamindari came to have 28 Post Offices. Ramanathapuram and Paramakudi had Telegraph Offices also. By this time the Government had taken over every Postal Service from the hands of the zamindars and the Zamindari Postal System was abolished.

In the year 1878, the Imperial Telegraph was functioning in the above mentioned two places. Prior to the advent of the Telegraph Offices, the Railway was accepting telegrams; but the charge varied from place to place and it was in 1868 that it was made uniform.

In 1963, there were 601 Post Offices serving an average area of 7.03 square miles and each catered to the needs of 3,378 persons in average. The total number of Telegraph Offices was 71, serving an average area of 59.50 square miles for an average of 28,321 persons. There were 19 telephone exchanges and 51 public call offices to cater to the needs of the District. At Rameswaram, Virudhunagar and Rajapalayam, Hindi Telegraph facilities are available.

Ramanathapuram Postal Division, which formed part of the former Madurai Division was bifurcated with effect from February 1956 and was functioning as an independent Postal Division from that date. The Division was almost co-terminus with the Ramanathapuram Revenue District except that four offices of Tirunelveli District, one of Thanjavur District and one of Madurai District were in this Division and one Extra Departmental S.O. and eight branch offices situated in this District were in Pudukkottai Postal Division.

The headquarters of the Division was at Madurai immediately after bifurcation and it was shifted to Ramanathapuram in August 1956. The division was upgraded into a Class I Division with effect from 18th June 1958 and was in charge of a Class I-I.P.S. Officer, designated as Senior Superintendent of Post Offices.

He was assisted by an Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices in the administrative control of the Division. The Division was further sub-divided into, six smaller units, called sub-divisions each in charge of an Inspector of Post Offices with headquarters at Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi, Virudhunagar and Sivakasi.

A Head Post Office is the centre of an accounting unit with a member of Sub and Branch Post Offices under it. There are three Head Post Offices in this Division. The Head Post Office at Ramanathapuram, is a very old one and was formed in the year 1917. The Head Post Office at Virudhunagar was formed on 1st July 1962, and the one at Karaikkudi was formed on 1st October 1962.

*Postal Divisions in the Ramanathapuram District*<sup>1</sup> :—In 1970 the Ramanathapuram District was divided into two divisions viz., Ramanathapuram Postal Division and Virudhunagar Postal Division. As on November 1, 1971, the total number of post offices in the Ramanathapuram Division is 488 and that of Virudhunagar Division is 246. The area served by the Ramanathapuram Division is 8,743.44 sq. kms. and that of Virudhunagar Division is 3684.60 sq. kms. The number of persons catered by each post office in the Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar Divisions are 3,635 and 4,404 respectively. There are 5 sub-divisions in the Ramanathapuram Division they are Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, Sivaganga, Devakottai and Karaikkudi. In the Virudhunagar Division there are two sub-divisions, viz., Virudhunagar and Srivilliputtur. Four post offices in the Tirunelveli District (Perumalpatti, Varaganur, Masarpatti, Vembar) and two post offices in the Madurai District (Avalsurampatti, Kopinaickenpatti) are served by the Virudhunagar Division. No post office of other districts is served in the Ramanathapuram Division. 125 villages in the Ramanathapuram Division and 15 villages in the Virudhunagar Division have tri-weekly services.

1. Source : The Post Master General, Post Master General's Office, Madras-2.

The postal divisions in the Ramanathapuram District consist of the following categories of Offices as on November 1, 1971 :

|                                   |    |    |    |    | <i>Ramanatha-<br/>puram<br/>Division.</i> | <i>Virudhunagar<br/>Division.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|-----------------------------------|
|                                   |    |    |    |    | (1)                                       | (2)                               |
| Number of Head Post Offices       | .. | .. |    |    | 2   | 1                                 |
| Lower-Selection Grade Sub-Offices | .. | .. |    |    | 14  | 6                                 |
| Other Sub-Offices                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 93  | 43                                |
| Extra Departmental Branch Office  | .. | .. |    |    | ..  | 1                                 |
| Branch Offices                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 379                                       | 196                               |
| <b>Total</b>                      |    |    |    |    | <b>488</b>                                | <b>247</b>                        |

There are 2,312 letter boxes in the Ramanathapuram Division. Out of this 1,027 are in the rural areas and 1,285 are in the urban areas. In the Virudhunagar Division there are 700 letter boxes. Out of this 522 are in rural areas and 178 are in the urban areas.

The number of postal mails covered as on November 1, 1971 in each division is given below :—

|                                  |    |    |    |    | <i>Ramanatha-<br/>puram<br/>Division<br/>number.</i> | <i>Virudhunagar<br/>Division<br/>number.</i> |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
|                                  |    |    |    |    | (1)  | (2)  |
| Railways                         | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  | 2  |
| Route buses                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26   | 12   |
| Cycle Runner                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 116  | 79   |
| Runners                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 251  | ..   |
| Extra Departmental Mail Carriers | .. |    |    |    | 179  | 87   |

In the Ramanathapuram Division 441 post offices are vested with Savings Bank Powers and in the Virudhunagar Division 247 post offices are vested with Savings Bank Powers. 27,257 and 18,585 radio licences are issued upto March 31, 1971, in the Ramanathapuram Division and the Virudhunagar Division respectively.

Total number of unregistered letters, post cards, newspapers, parcels, etc., delivered for the year 1970-71 (Class-wise) are given in the table below :—

|                                   | <i>Ramanathapuram Division.</i> | <i>Virudhunagar Division.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                   | (1)                             | (2)                           |
| Ordinary letter mails (covers) .. | 37,55,408                       | 37,62,460                     |
| Inland letter cards .. ..         | 45,00,204                       | 32,47,478                     |
| Post Cards .. .. .                | 41,04,116                       | 38,17,944                     |
| Registered Newspapers .. ..       | 8,32,288                        | 6,74,258                      |
| Book-posts .. .. .                | 10,97,728                       | 10,20,188                     |
| Unregistered Parcels .. ..        | 76,164                          | 1,08,498                      |
| Express Delivery Articles ..      | 37,378                          | 1,75,240                      |
| Service Articles .. .. .          | 2,95,462                        | 9,66,680                      |

Number of registered and V.P. Insured articles posted in 1970-71 are given in the table below :—

|   | <i>Ramanathapuram Division.</i> | <i>Virudhunagar Division.</i> |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | (1)                             | (2)                           |
| Number of registered articles both letter and parcel mails. | 3,66,295                        | 4,05,349                      |
| Number of V.P. articles both letter and parcel mails.       | 3,499                           | 44,357                        |
| Number of insured articles both letter and parcel mails.    | 6,705                           | 5,395                         |

In the Ramanathapuram Division 7 post offices are housed in the buildings owned by the department and 98 in the rented buildings. In the Virudhunagar Division 3 post offices are housed in the buildings owned by the department and 50 in the rented buildings.<sup>1</sup>

**Telegraph Office and Telephone Facilities<sup>2</sup> :—***Telegraph Offices : Ramanathapuram Division :—*The number of telegraph offices in this Division is 69. The area served by the telegraph offices is 8743.44 sq. kms. The number of persons catered by each telegraph office in this Division is 25,709 persons.

*Virudhunagar Division :—*In this Division the total number of telegraph offices is 30. The area served by the telegraph offices is 3,684.60 sq. kms. The number of persons served by the telegraph offices are 10,83,496 persons.

**Telephone Facilities :—**In the Ramanathapuram Division there are 21 telephone exchanges and 65 public call offices. In the Virudhunagar Division there are 8 telephone exchanges and 29 public call offices.<sup>3</sup>

1. For further particulars please see appendix V.

2. Source : The Post Master General, Post Master General's Office, Madras-2.

3. For further details please see appendix V.



APPENDIX I.  
LIST OF GOVERNMENT ROADS AS IN 1964—SIVAGANGA DIVISION.

| Serial number and name of Road.   | Starting mileage. |    |     | Ending mileage. |    |     | Length. |    |     |
|---|-------------------|----|-----|-----------------|----|-----|---------|----|-----|
| (1)   | M.                | F. | FT. | M.              | F. | FT. | M.      | F. | FT. |
| (2)   | (3)               |    |     | (4)             |    |     |         |    |     |
| <i>National Highways :</i>  |                   |    |     |                 |    |     |         |    |     |
| 1 Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road (N.H. 49) .. .. .  | 6                 | 4  | 0   | 70              | 4  | 0   | 64      | 0  | 0   |
| 2 Madurai-Dhanushkodi Road (Ramnad-Mantapam reach) .. .. .  | 70                | 4  | 0   | 94              | 4  | 0   | 24      | 0  | 0   |
| <i>State Highways :</i>   |                   |    |     |                 |    |     |         |    |     |
| 3 Manamadurai-Tirupattur Road and thence to Pudukkottai frontier .. .. .                                | 0                 | 0  | 0   | 39              | 5  | 0   | 39      | 5  | 0   |
| <i>Major District Roads :</i>   |                   |    |     |                 |    |     |         |    |     |
| 4 Madurai-Tirupattur-Kammangudi Bridge Devakottai Road and on to Kanadukathan-Madurai-Devakottai Road). | 28                | 0  | 126 | 60              | 1  | 0   | 32      | 0  | 534 |
| 5 Devakottai-Kanadukathan (via) Karaikkudi and on to Pudukkottai frontier.                              | 0                 | 0  | 0   | 11              | 4  | 153 | 11      | 4  | 153 |
| 6 Sarugani-Devakottai Road .. .. .  | 0                 | 0  | 0   | 9               | 5  | 486 | 9       | 5  | 481 |
| 7 Sivaganga-Tondi Road (via) Sarugani .. .. .   | 26                | 0  | 0   | 67              | 7  | 501 | 41      | 7  | 500 |
| 8 Madurai-Sivaganga-Tondi (from the District border to Sivaganga)                                       | 8                 | 0  | 0   | 26              | 0  | 0   | 18      | 0  | 0   |
| 9 Ramanathapuram-Kilakkarai Road .. .. .  | 0                 | 0  | 0   | 10              | 3  | 0   | 10      | 3  | 0   |
| 10 Tirupattur-Kanadukathan (via) Kunnakkudi .. .. .   | 7                 | 0  | 0   | 15              | 0  | 0   | 8       | 0  | 0   |
| 11 Managiri-Karaikkudi Road .. .. .   | 0                 | 0  | 0   | 2               | 6  | 516 | 2       | 6  | 516 |

| Serial number and name of Road.   | (1) |    |     | (2) |    |     | (3) |    |     | (4) |    |     | Length. |     |
|---|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|---------|-----|
|   | M.  | F. | FT. | M.  | F. | FT. | M.  | F. | FT. | M.  | F. | FT. |         |     |
| 12 Paramagudi-Mudukuletur Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 15  | 6  | 285 | 15  | 6  | 285 | 6       | 285 |
| 13 Malur-Sivaganga Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 7   | 4  | 228 | 16  | 2  | 171 | 8   | 5  | 603 | 5       | 603 |
| 14 Ramanathapuram-Devipatnam Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 9   | 5  | 150 | 9   | 5  | 150 | 5       | 150 |
| 15 Aruppukkottai-Sayalgudi (via) Mandapasalai .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 20  | 0  | 0   | 32  | 4  | 0   | 13  | 4  | 0   | 4       | 0   |
| 16 Singampuneri-Tirupattur Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 35  | 6  | 396 | 51  | 0  | 510 | 15  | 2  | 114 | 2       | 114 |
| 17 Kottayur-Arantangi Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 10  | 1  | 534 | 10  | 1  | 534 | 1       | 534 |
| 18 Kamudi-Mandapasalai Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 1   | 0  | 0   | 9   | 1  | 0   | 1       | 0   |
| 19 Mudukuletur-Kanudi Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 11  | 5  | 0   | 11  | 5  | 0   | 5       | 0   |
| 20 Devakottai-Devipatnam Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 1  | 0   | 34  | 4  | 0   | 34  | 3  | 0   | 3       | 0   |
| 21 Ramanathapuram-Nainarkoil TRoad .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 17  | 0  | 0   | 17  | 0  | 0   | 0       | 0   |
| 22 Elayangudi-Paramagudi Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 20  | 0  | 0   | 25  | 0  | 0   | 5   | 0  | 0   | 5       | 0   |
| 23 Sivaganga-Elayangudi-Paramagudi Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 25  | 0  | 0   | 25  | 4  | 300 | 19  | 7  | 600 | 7       | 600 |
| 24 Kammangudi bridge to Kunakkudi Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 2   | 4  | 87  | 7   | 0  | 0   | 4   | 3  | 573 | 3       | 573 |
| 25 Tiruchuli-Partibanur (via) Narikkudi (on the Partibanur side) .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   | 4  | 0   | 4   | 4  | 0   | 4       | 0   |
| 26 Emaneswaram-Nainarkoil Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0   | 6   | 0  | 0   | 6   | 0  | 0   | 0       | 0   |
| 27 Road from mile 3/3 of Kanadukattai-Kannikudi Road to Karaikkudi within Alageppa Chettiar campus in Karaikkudi. | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 2   | 1  | 0   | 2       | 1   |
| 28 Approach road joining mile 1/3 of Kanadukattai-Karaikkudi Road within Karaikkudi Municipal limits.             | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 4  | 0   | 4       | 0   |
| 29 Vattanam Road within Devakottai Municipal limits. .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 0   | 3  | 192 | 3       | 192 |
| 30 Madurai-Varichur Road .. ..  | ..  | .. | ..  | 14  | 1  | 0   | 14  | 7  | 330 | 0   | 8  | 0   | 8       | 0   |
| 31 Sivaganga-Elayangudi-Paramagudi Road .. ..   | ..  | .. | ..  | 25  | 4  | 330 | 36  | 2  | 80  | 0   | 5  | 440 | 5       | 440 |

|    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 32 | Emaneswaram-Nainarkoil Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 7   | 5   | 0   | 1   | ..  | 0   |
| 33 | Partibanur-Kamudi Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 24  | 0   | 463 | 16  | ..  | 463 |
| 34 | Mudukulattur-Sayalgudi Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 15  | 2   | 0   | 15  | 2   | 0   |
| 35 | Kamudi-Sayalgudi Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 46 | 7  | 300 | 63 | 5  | 0   | 16  | 5   | 360 | 16  | 5   |
| 36 | Rajesingamangalam-Elayangudi Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 21  | 0   | 0   | 21  | 0   | 0   |
| 37 | Managiri-Madugupatti Road (via) Kallal   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 1  | 0   | 16 | 5  | 560 | 16  | 4   | 560 | 16  | 4   |
| 38 | Chatrakudi-Railway Feeder Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 290 | 0   | 1   | 290 |
| 39 | Rannad Railway Feeder Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 4  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 7   | 530 | 0   | 3   | 530 |
| 40 | Pandi Kannoi-Railway Feeder Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 2   | 330 | 0   | 2   | 330 |
| 41 | Partibanur-Railway-Feeder Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 1   | 4   | 460 | 1   | 4   | 460 |
| 42 | Muthanandal-Railway Feeder Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 1   | 5   | 160 | 1   | 5   | 160 |
| 43 | Chettinad-Railway-Feeder Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 1   | 5   | 50  | 1   | 5   | 50  |
| 44 | Rannad-Kilakkarai Road within Kilakkarai Panchayat limits  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 3  | 978 | 10 | 6  | 71  | 0   | 2   | 453 | 0   | 2   |
| 45 | Koilur-Kunnakkudi Road   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 4  | 1   | 482 | 4   | 0   | 482 | 4   |
| 46 | Singampuneri-Tirupattur Road to Pudukkottai frontier (via) Terkur Neikuppai  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0  | 7  | 0   | 75  | 6   | 7   | 75  | 6   |
| 47 | Okkur-Kilpundugi Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8  | 3  | 0   | 15 | 2  | 475 | 6   | 7   | 475 | 6   | 7   |
| 48 | Okkur-Nattarasankottai Road  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 5  | 2  | 0   | 5   | 2   | 0   | 5   | 2   |
| 49 | West Car Street from the South Bank of Vaigai river to meet mile 11/4-5 of Madurai-Rannad Road (lying in Tiruppurvanam Panchayat). | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | 0   | 1   | 190 |
| 50 | Malur-Poovandi-Tiruppuvanam Road from the junction of Madurai-Tondi Road to North bank of Vaigai                                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 0  | 18  | 16 | 0  | 0   | 1   | 7   | 642 | 1   | 7   |
| 51 | Koviloor Road from Hussein Aroh to Hospital in Karaikudi Municipality.   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 2   | 60  | 0   | 2   |
| 52 | Road from mile 20/3 of Devakottai-Devipattanam Road to Rajesingamangalam.  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1  | 1  | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   |

#### Roads in Rameswaram :

|    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |     |
|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----|
| 53 | Railway Feeder Road including Bazaar Street within Rameswaram Panchayat. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 4 | 240 |
| 54 | Middle Street (District Board Road)                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 | 44  |

| Serial number and name of Road.                                  | Starting mileage.   |    |     |    | Ending mileage. |     |     |    | Length. |    |     |     |
|--|---|----|-----|----|-----------------|-----|-----|----|---------|----|-----|-----|
| (1)  | (2)   |    | (3) |    | (4)             |     | (5) |    | (6)     |    | (7) |     |
|  | M.  | F. | FT. | M. | F.              | FT. | M.  | F. | FT.     | M. | F.  | FT. |
| 55 Chinnakadai Street (Rameswaram Panchayat)                     | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 1  | 390     | 0  | 1   | 390 |
| 56 North Car Street (Rameswaram Panchayat)                       | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 1  | 3 0     | 0  | 1   | 3 0 |
| 57 South Car Street (Rameswaram Panchayat)                       | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 1  | 390     | 0  | 1   | 390 |
| 58 East Car Street (Rameswaram)                                  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 1  | 120     | 0  | 1   | 120 |
| 59 West Car Street (Rameswaram)                                  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 1  | 120     | 0  | 1   | 120 |
| <b>Other District Roads :</b>                                    |   |    |     |    |                 |     |     |    |         |    |     |     |
| 60 Tiruppuvanam-Kanudi Road (via) Pulivaikarai-Mankudi-Tiruchuli | Constituting—   |    |     |    |                 |     |     |    |         |    |     |     |
| (a) Tiruppuvanam-Pulivaikarai Road                               | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 4  | 5   | 0   |
| (b) Tiruchuli-Kanudi Road  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 41  | 3  | 0       | 45 | 3   | 0   |
| 61 Kanudi-Surugudi Road (via) Kilkudi-Paranali and Uchinatham    | Constituting—   |    |     |    |                 |     |     |    |         |    |     |     |
| (a) Kilkudi-Kanudi   | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 4   | 0  | 0       | 8  | 4   | 0   |
| (b) Tuthinatham-Kilkudi  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 2  | 0   | 0   |
| (c) Perunalli-Uchinatham   | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 6  | 4   | 0   |
| (d) Uchinatham-Sarugani  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 6   | 4  | 0       | 7  | 0   | 0   |
| 62 Road from mile 46/7 of N.H. 49 to Keerandai                   | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 21 | 1   | 0   |
| 63 Road from mile 67/1 of N.H. 49 to Kilakkarai-Sikril Road      | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 11 | 6   | 0   |
| 64 Mudukulattur-Uthirakosamangai Road                            | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 16 | 5   | 0   |
| 65 Tiruppachetty-Karapatty Road (via) Illipaikulam constituting— | (a) Tiruppachetty to mile 6/1 of Narikudi-Pulivaikarai Road |    |     |    |                 |     |     |    |         |    |     |     |
|  | ..  | .. | ..  | .. | ..              | ..  | 0   | 5  | 0       | 0  | 0   | 0   |

|    |  |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|
| 66 | Road from mile 26/7 of Madurai-Ramanad Road to Kattanur (via) Fisher-pattinam and Milaganur.   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 7 | 0 | 7  | 7 | 0 |
| 67 | Veerasholan-Sikkil Road (via) Abirnam and Mudukulattur constituting—<br>(a) Abirnam-Veerasholan Road .. .. .<br>(b) Mudukulattur-Sikkil Road .. .. . | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 4 | 0 | 7  | 4 | 0 |
| 68 | Road from Tanjakoor to meet Tiruppuvanam Pullvolkkalai Road ..   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| 69 | Perunali-Peraiyur Road (via) Kovilankulam Constituting—<br>(a) Peaiyur-Kovilankulam .. .. .<br>(b) Kovilankulam-Perunali .. .. .                     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 70 | Sayalgudi to Vembar (via) Vadaktur-Maripaiyur and Kannirajapuram   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 1 | 0 | 6  | 1 | 0 |
|    |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 2 | 0 | 7  | 2 | 0 |
|    |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 0 | 0 |

**BUS ROUTE ROADS (1960-61) (UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1ST APRIL 1961).**

|   |  |    |   |   |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|---|--|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| 1 | Devakottai-Vattanam Road .. .. .       | 72 | 5 | 0 | 98 | 2 | 0  | 19 | 5 | 0  |
| 2 | Tekkur-Pudur Road .. .. .              | 0  | 0 | 0 | 7  | 0 | 60 | 7  | 0 | 60 |
| 3 | Tholuchanthanallur Road .. .. .        | 0  | 2 | 0 | 19 | 3 | 0  | 12 | 1 | 0  |
| 4 | Tiruvadanai-Oriyur Road .. .. .        | 0  | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0  | 12 | 1 | 0  |
| 5 | Uppur-Avaradal Road .. .. .            | 0  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 3 | 0  | 6  | 3 | 0  |
| 6 | Anandur-Sukkirepatty Road .. .. .      | 0  | 0 | 0 | 8  | 0 | 0  | 8  | 0 | 0  |
| 7 | Abirnam-Mudukulattur Road .. .. .      | 0  | 1 | 0 | 8  | 1 | 0  | 8  | 0 | 0  |
| 8 | C. V. Mangalam-Pirammalai Road .. .. . | 0  | 0 | 0 | 5  | 2 | 0  | 5  | 2 | 0  |

**BUS ROUTE ROADS (1961-62) (UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1ST APRIL 1962.)**

|    |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |     |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|
| 9  | Tiruppattur-Kandranickam Road .. .. .     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 40  | 5 | 3 | 40  |
| 10 | Tirukostiyur-Kandranickam Road .. .. .    | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 270 | 5 | 0 | 270 |
| 11 | Kallal Railway Feeder Road .. .. .        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0   | 1 | 0 | 0   |
| 12 | Vetiyur-Natarajapuram Road .. .. .        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0   | 5 | 0 | 0   |
| 13 | Nattarakkottai-Natarajapuram Road .. .. . | 1 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0   | 5 | 5 | 0   |

*Serial number and name of Road.*  
(1)

*Starting mileage.*  
(2)  
*Ending mileage.*  
(3)  
*Length.*  
(4)  
*M. FG. FEET. M. FG. FEET. M. FG. FEET.*

|    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|----|
| 14 | Pudur-Ulagampatti Road                      | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 2   | 0   | 0  |
| 15 | Ulagampatti Pudukkottai frontier Road       | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 1 | 2  | 309 | 1   | 3  |
| 16 | Usilampatti Mudalapatti Road                | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 1   | 430 | 6  |
| 17 | Kanadukathan Kothamangalam Road             | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 2  | 6   | 0   | 2  |
| 18 | Keelasevalpatti Kunnakkudi Road             | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 0   | 0   | 6  |
| 19 | Kottaiyur diversion Road                    | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 4  | 6   | 560 | 1  |
| 20 | Ariyakudi Road                              | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 6   | 0   | 1  |
| 21 | Kandramanickam to meet Managiri Kallal Road | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 5  | 3   | 330 | 5  |
| 22 | Pattamanickam Chokkanathapuram Road         | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 2  | 7   | 150 | 2  |
| 23 | Pudur Devakottai Road                       | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 0   | 455 | 6  |
| 24 | Madagupatti Paganeri Road                   | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 2   | 0   | 1  |
| 25 | Madagupatti Paganeri Road                   | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 4  | 0   | 0   | 4  |
| 26 | Natarajapuram Paganeri Road                 | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 3  | 6   | 0   | 3  |
| 27 | Tondi Vatanam Road                          | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 6  | 0   | 0   | 6  |
| 28 | Tondi Tiruppalaikudi Road                   | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0   | 0   | 16 |
| 29 | Tiruppalaikudi Devipatnam Road              | -- | -- | 16 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 4   | 100 | 4  |
| 30 | Tiruppallani Sethukarai Road                | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 3  | 2   | 0   | 3  |
| 31 | Vairavampatti Sirugudalpattiy Road          | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 6   | 300 | 1  |
| 32 | Nerukuppai Mahibalampatti Road              | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 8  | 6   | 0   | 3  |
| 33 | Perunali Vilathikulam                       | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 3  | 3   | 0   | 3  |
| 34 | Chokkanathapuram Paganeri                   | -- | -- | 0  | 0 | 0 | 2  | 7   | 0   | 2  |

Bus Route Roads (1962-63) (UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1-4-1963).



| Serial number and name of Road.   | (1)     | Starting mileage. |           | Ending mileage. |           | Length. |           |
|---|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|   |         | M.                | PG. FEET. | M.              | PG. FEET. | M.      | PG. FEET. |
| Major District Road—cont.   |         |                   |           |                 |           |         |           |
| 12 Sivakasi Virudhunagar Road .. .. .   | .. .. . | 1                 | 0         | 15              | 0         | 14      | 0         |
| 13 Virudhunagar Aruppukkottai Road and including Ambathur Cause way (within Virudhunagar Municipal limits).             | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | 1       | 1         |
| 14 Nalli Railway Feeder Road. .. .. .   | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 1               | 0         | 1       | 0         |
| 15 Sivakasi—Tirunelveli Frontier Road (via) Vembakkottai.   | .. .. . | 0                 | 1         | 13              | 0         | 12      | 7         |
| 16 Krishnankoil Watrap Road. .. .. .  | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 9               | 0         | 9       | 0         |
| 17 Watrap—Maharajapuram Alagapuri Road. .. .. .   | .. .. . | 0                 | 2         | 10              | 6         | 10      | 4         |
| 18 Alagapuri Virudhunagar Road. .. .. .   | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 13              | 0         | 13      | 0         |
| 19 Rajapalayam—Samsingapuram Kilamajakundram Road. .. .. .  | .. .. . | 2                 | 4         | 9               | 4         | 7       | 0         |
| 20 Sivakasi—Virudhunagar Road (within Sivakasi Municipal limits).   | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | 0       | 7         |
| 21 Chatrapathy Road (within Rajapalayam Municipality).  | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 2               | 2         | 2       | 2         |
| 22 Mudangiar Road (within Rajapalayam Municipality).  | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 1               | 0         | 1       | 0         |
| 23 Rajapalayam—Ayyanarkoil Road .. .. .   | .. .. . | 1                 | 0         | 3               | 1         | 7       | 1         |
| 24 East Car Street and portion of Railway Feeder Road forming part of bye-pass road in Srivilliputtur Municipal limits. | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | 0       | 1         |
| 25 Vembakkottai Chetti Teppam Road within Sivakasi Municipal limits.  | .. .. . | 0                 | 0         | 0               | 7         | 0       | 7         |
| OTHER DISTRICT ROADS.   |         |                   |           |                 |           |         |           |
| 26 Tiruppuvanam Kamudi Road (via) Pulivoikarai Narikudi and Tiruchuli constituting—                                     | .. .. . | 4                 | 5         | 9               | 3         | 4       | 6         |
| (a) Tiruppuvanam—Pulvoikarai Road. .. .. .  | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | ..      | ..        |
| (b) Narikudi—Pulvoikarai Road. .. .. .  | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | ..      | ..        |
| (c) Tiruchuli—Kamudi Road .. .. .   | .. .. . | ..                | ..        | ..              | ..        | ..      | ..        |



27 Kamudi Surangudi Road (via) Kilkudi Perunali and Uchinatham constituting—

(a) Kilkudi road .. .. . 4 0 0 4 0 0

(b) Tythinatham—Kilkudi road .. .. . 1 2 0

28 Tirupachetty—Kariapatty Road (via) Illupankulam Constituting

(a) Tirupachetty. M6/1 of Narikkudi Pulivoikarai Road .. .. . 6 2 9

(b) Kariapatty to meet Mile 3/2 of Narikkudi Pulivoikarai Road. .. .. . 16 0 0

29 Road from Mile 14/7 of Madurai Aruppukkottai Road at Meenakshipuram to a Mukkulam. .. .. . 9 1 0

30 Road from Mile 26/7 of Madurai Ramnad Road to Kattanur (via) Fisherpattinam and Milaganur. .. .. . 1 0 0

31 Abiramam Veerasaholam road. .. .. . 1 5 0

**Bus Route Roads (1960-61) (UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1ST APRIL 1961.)**

|  |   |   |     |   |   |     |
|--|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|
| 1 Thiruthangal Sengamanachi Road. .. .. .  | 3 | 2 | 255 | 3 | 2 | 255 |
| 2 Veerasolam Road .. .. .                  | 3 | 5 | 0   | 3 | 5 | 0   |
| 3 Settur Dhalavaipurn Road .. .. .         | 1 | 6 | 540 | 1 | 6 | 540 |
| 4 Srivilliputtur Manasapuram Road .. .. .  | 3 | 1 | 202 | 3 | 1 | 202 |
| 5 Elayirampannai Guhanaperai Road. .. .. . | 5 | 6 | 0   | 5 | 6 | 0   |
| 6 Sivakasi Vilampatty Road .. .. .         | 2 | 4 | 0   | 2 | 4 | 0   |
| 7 Vembakottai Alangulam Road .. .. .       | 6 | 5 | 0   | 6 | 5 | 0   |
| 8 Sattur Elayirampannai Road .. .. .       | 7 | 6 | 0   | 7 | 6 | 0   |
| 9 Sattur Nenmeni Road .. .. .              | 6 | 2 | 179 | 6 | 2 | 179 |
| 10 Chatram Sippipari Road .. .. .          | 5 | 3 | 0   | 5 | 3 | 0   |

**Bus Route Roads (1961-62) (UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1ST APRIL 1962).**

|   |    |   |   |    |   |   |
|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|
| 11 Virudhunagar Kallakuruchi Mallanginar Road .. .. . | 9  | 4 | 0 | 9  | 4 | 0 |
| 12 Pandalkudi Vilathikulam Road .. .. .               | 69 | 4 | 7 | 69 | 4 | 7 |

Serial number and name of Road.  
(1)

Starting mileage.  
(2)  
M. FG. FEET.

Ending mileage.  
(3)  
M. FG. FEET.

Length.  
(4)  
M. FG. FEET.

Other District—cont.

|  |       |    |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|-------|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 Kariapatty Tiruchuli Road                     | .. .. | 18 | 3 | 0 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 Kariapatty Tiruchuli Kamudi Road              | .. .. | 26 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 15 Nalli railway station to Uppathur.            | .. .. | 0  | 0 | 0 | 3  | 6 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| 16 Nenneni District Limits (via) Nagalapuram.    | .. .. | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 6 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 17 Nenneni District Limits (via) Mayarathanpuram | .. .. | 0  | 0 | 0 | 2  | 5 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| 18 Kariapatty Katukudy Road                      | .. .. | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

BUS ROUTE ROADS (1953-54) UNDER GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE FROM 1st APRIL 1954.

|   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 Sattur to Vembakottai (via) Rengapanaickanpatti up-to Sattur Union limits.         | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 20 Sivakasi Vembakottai Road to Sattur up to Union limits (Vembakottai Union limits). | 4 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 |

Total .. 10 4 0

## APPENDIX II.

## LIST OF MAJOR BRIDGES IN THE DISTRICT AS IN 1963.

|   | <i>Length in feet</i> |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 Bridge at M. 8/1 of Ramnad Kilakkarai Road .. .. .                  | 550                   |
| 2 Vaigai Bridge at M. 0/1-2 of Manamadurai Tiruppattur Road ..        | 1,200                 |
| 3 Bridge at M. 19/6 Devakottai Devipatnam Road .. .. .                | 1,800                 |
| 4 Submersible bridge at M. 25/4 of Elayangudi Paramagudi Road ..      | 2,080                 |
| 5 Bridge at M. 6/1 of Kallai Mangiri road .. .. .                     | 1,100                 |
| 6 Causeway at M. 9/3 of Parthibanur Narikkudi Road .. .. .            | 600                   |
| 7 Causeway over Vaigai between Alahangulam and Pannaikulam ..         | 512                   |
| 8 Supermersible bridge at M. 9/1 of Sivakasi Kalugumalai road ..      | 400                   |
| 9 Bridge at M. 339/4 of B.C.C. road .. .. .                           | 490                   |
| 10 Bridge at M. 345/7 of B.C.C. road .. .. .                          | 730                   |
| 11 Bridge at M. 4/22-3 of Sattur Nemmerri Road .. .. .                | 485                   |
| 12 Bridge at M. 16/7 of Madurai Aruppukkottai Road .. .. .            | 325                   |
| 13 Bridge at M. 21/3 of Madurai Aruppukkotti Road .. .. .             | 375                   |
| 14 Bridge across Gundar in 18-9-8 of Tiruchirapalli Narikkudi road .. | ..                    |
| 15 Bridge at M. 354/2 of Benares—Cape Camorin Road .. .. .            | ..                    |
| 16 Bridge at M. 0/3 of Sivakasi—Mannargudi Road .. .. .               | ..                    |

<sup>0</sup>  
*Proposed Bridges.—*

- 1 Bridge at Mile 4/3 of Sivakasi—Virudhunagar Road,
- 2 Bridge at Mile 6/2 of Sivakasi—Virudhunagar Road,
- 3 Bridge at Mile 2/6-7 of Arasiarpatti—Rengasadbapuram Road.

## APPENDIX III.

The following table gives the list of State Express bus routes crossing Ramanathapuram District as in 1963:—

| <i>Route Number.</i> | <i>From</i>          | <i>To</i>                 |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 111 .. .. .          | Tiruchirapalli .. .. | Nagercoil (via) Koilpatti |
| 112 .. .. .          | Nagercoil .. ..      | Trichy (via) Tuticorin.   |
| 114 .. .. .          | Nagercoil .. ..      | Coimbatore.               |
| 120 .. .. .          | Shencottah .. ..     | Thanjavur.                |
| .. .. .              | Nagercoil .. ..      | Ramanathapuram            |
| ....                 | Ramanathapuram ..    | Thanjavur                 |
| 107 ....             | Nagapattinam .. ..   | Ramanathapuram            |

(The Express from Nagapattinam to Ramanathapuram is running from February 1, 1964.)

# APPENDIX IV.

## LIST OF TRAVELLERS' BUNGALOWS UNDER MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AS IN 1963.

| <i>Serial number and location.</i> | <i>By whom maintained.</i> | <i>Nearest Railway station.</i> | <i>Name of accommodation.</i>  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| (1)                                | (2)                        | (3)                             | (4)  |
| 1 Rajapalayam .. ..                | Municipal Council          | Rajapalayam .. ..               | III Class Travellers Bungalow. One suite is provided.  |
| 2 Do. .. ..                        | Do.                        | Do. .. ..                       | One Rest House is also run by the Municipal Council.   |
| 3 Srivilliputtur .. ..             | Do.                        | .... .. Srivilliputtur .. ..    | One II Class Travellers' Bungalow with two suites.   |
| 4 Sivakasi .. ..                   | Do.                        | .... .. Sivakasi .. ..          | Two Travellers' Bungalow one with four suites and the other with two suites.                           |
| 5 Virudhunagar .. ..               | Do.                        | .... .. Virudhunagar .. ..      | One II Class Travellers' Bungalow with two big rooms and two small rooms. One garage is also provided. |
| 6 Do. .. ..                        | Do.                        | .... .. Do. .. ..               | One choultry with 10 rooms is maintained by the Municipal Council.                                     |
| 7 Aruppukkottai .. ..              | Do.                        | .... .. Aruppukkottai .. ..     | One II Class Travellers' Bungalow with one suite.  |
| 8 Karaikkudi .. ..                 | Do.                        | .... .. Karaikkudi .. ..        | One II Class Travellers' Bungalow with three suite.  |
| 9 Devakottai .. ..                 | Do.                        | .... .. Devakottai Road .. ..   | Two suites with kitchen facilities.  |

## LIST OF TRAVELLERS' BUNGALOWS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AS IN 1963.

| <i>Serial number and location.</i> | <i>By whom maintained</i>                                       | <i>Nearest Railway Station and the distance from it.</i> | <i>Nature of accommodation.</i>   |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| (1)                                | (2)   | (3)  | (4)   |
| 1 Sattur .. ..                     | .. Assistant Engineer Highways and Rural Works, Sattur.         | .. ..  | .. Two sets of rooms with electrification and fans, have over head tank with bathroom facilities. |
| 2 Aruppukkottai .. ..              | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways and Rural Works, Aruppukkottai. | .. ..  | .. Three sets of rooms of which one is not yet electrified, No over head tank.                    |
| 3 Kariapatti .. ..                 | Do.   | Do.  | .. One set of room with electrification, No over head tank.                                       |
| 4 Siveganga .. ..                  | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Siveganga.                     | .. ..  | .. Two suites with electrification and water pipe.  |
| 5 Manamadurai .. ..                | Do.   | Manamadurai 1 mile ..                                    | .. Four suites with electrification.  |
| 6 Tiruppattur .. ..                | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Tiruppattur.                   | Karaikkudi 12 miles ..                                   | .. Two suites with electrification and over head tank.  |
| 7 Tiruvadanai .. ..                | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Tiruvadanai.                   | Devakottai Road 16 miles ..                              | .. One suite with electrification and over head tank.   |
| 8 Tondi .. ..                      | Do.   | Devakottai Road ..                                       | .. One suite with electrification and over head tank.   |
| 9 Paramagudi .. ..                 | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Paramagudi.                    | Paramagudi 1 mile ..                                     | .. Three suites with electrification and over head tank.  |
| 10 Ramanathapuram .. ..            | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Ramanathapuram.                | Ramanathapuram one mile ..                               | .. Four suites with electrification and over head tank.   |
| 11 Pamban .. ..                    | Do.   | Pamban .. ..   | .. One suite. No electrification and over head tank.  |
| 12 Mudukulattur .. ..              | .. Assistant Engineer, Highways, Mudukulattur.                  | Paramagudi .. ..   | Do.   |

LIST OF CHAYRAMS AND OTHER REST HOUSES AS IN 1964.

| <i>Serial number and place where situated.</i>          | <i>By whom maintained</i>  | <i>Nearest Railway Station and the distance from it.</i> | <i>Nature of accommodation.</i>   |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| (1)   | (2)                        | (3)  | (4)   |
| 1 Railway Retiring Room, Rameswaram.                    | .. .. Southern Railway     | Southern Railway, Rameswaram Railway Station.            | Accommodation only. Rent Rs. 8 per 24 hours per double room<br>Single room rent Rs. 5 per 24 hours. |
| 2 Maha Deer Dharmasala, Rameswaram.                     | Panchayat Union, Mandapam  | .. 100 yards from Railway Station.                       | Rs. 2 per day. 13 rooms in down stairs. Rent Re. 1 per day.   |
| 3 Devasthanam Rest House, Rameswaram.                   | Rameswaram Devasthanam     | .. One mile from Station                                 | .. No. 1 and 2 well furnished with modern facilities. Rent Rs. 5 per day.                           |
| 4 Rama Mandiram, Rameswaram.                            | Do.                        | Do.  | .. Intended on for V.I.P's. well furnished Rent, Rs. 10 per day.                                    |
| 5 Do.   | Do.                        | Do.  | .. Small rooms (4). Rent Rs. 2-50 per day.  |
| 6 Thiruppani Bungalow, Rameswaram.                      | Do.                        | Do.  | .. Well furnished with modern facilities. Rent Rs. 10 per day.                                      |
| 7 Chinna Thiruppani, Rameswaram.                        | Do.                        | Do.  | .. Well furnished with modern facilities. Rent Rs. 2-50 per day.                                    |
| 8 Doothivala Choultry, Varatharajan Street, Rameswaram. | Gangadara Peedambara Panda | .. 3 furlongs  | .. Electrified. Free accommodation only.  |
| 9 Nandagopal Choultry, Rameswaram.                      | Panchayat Union, Mantapam  | .. 4 furlongs  | .. Not fit for stay.  |
| 10 Thanjavur Raja Choultry, Rameswaram.                 | Do.                        | Do.  | .. All communities can stay.  |

|  |                                   |             |    |                                  |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 11 Kandenur Choultry, Rameswaram.                    | C. R. M. S. Ramanathan Chettiar.  | 4 Furlongs. | .. | ..                               | Wheat Kanji Dharmam to North Indians.                     |
| 12 Arya Vysia Choultry, West Street Rameswaram.      | L. Krishnamurthi Chettiar, Agent. | Do.         | .. | ..                               | Majapthurar Chettiar community only can stay. No feeding. |
| 13 Reddiar Madam, Rameswaram.                        | K. M. Reddiar.                    | ..          | .. | 4 furlongs from Railway Station. | Reddiar community only can stay. No feeding.              |
| 14 Bensil Choultry, Rameswaram.                      | Ramanatha Daga                    | ..          | .. | Do.                              | Only Marvadi Community can stay. No meals.                |
| 15 Boganandoss Choultry, Rameswaram.                 | Bagla Haribal, Manager            | ..          | .. | Do.                              | Do.   |
| 16 Kashmir Raja Choultry, Rameswaram.                | Manager                           | ..          | .. | Do.                              | Do.   |
| 17 Ramanathapuram Choultry, West Street, Rameswaram. | Raja Diwan Ramnad                 | ..          | .. | 5 furlongs                       | ..  |
| 18 Venkitta Royar Choultry, Rameswaram.              | Kajana Vengob Rao, Madura         | ..          | .. | 6 furlongs                       | ..  |
| 19 Gujarathi Choultry, Rameswaram.                   | Gangadara Peedambara Pande        | ..          | .. | ..                               | ..  |
| 20 Uduppi Choultry, North Street, Rameswaram.        | Narasinga Rao                     | ..          | .. | Do.                              | ..  |
| 21 Kasi Mutti, Rameswaram                            | Rameswaram Pat                    | ..          | .. | 5 furlongs                       | Do.   |
| 22 Yalpana Madam, Rameswaram.                        | Koti Sanguva Sastri               | ..          | .. | 6 furlongs                       | ..  |
| 23 V. S. K. Muthursigier, Rameswaram.                | Subramania Ayyar (Agent)          | ..          | .. | Do.                              | ..  |

Kongan Brahmin only can stay.

Do.

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| <i>Serial number and place where situated.</i>           | <i>By whom maintained.</i>            | <i>Nearest Railway Station and the distance from it.</i> | <i>Nature of accommodation.</i>          |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| (1)  | (2)                                   | (3)  | (4)                                      |
| 24 Kusa Lava Choultry, Rameswaram.                       | Subramania Ayyar, (Agent)             | Do.  | .. Sowrashtta only can stay.             |
| 25 Nagaratharnadarn, Rameswaram.                         | AL. A. Somanathan Chettiar            | Do.  | .. Nagarathar Chettians only can stay.   |
| 26 Rankumar Choultry, Rameswaram.                        | Manager Tiruvadi                      | .. 5 furlongs  | .. North Indians only can stay.          |
| 27 Paramagudi Chettiar, Rameswaram.                      | Kesukara Chettiar, Agent, Paramagudi. | Do.  | .. Chettiar community only can stay.     |
| 28 Nadar Choultry, New Street, Rameswaram.               | Ramalinga Nadar, Uchupuli             | .. 3 furlongs  | .. Nadar community only can stay.        |
| 29 Ahalyabai Choultry, Sannadhi Street, Rameswaram.      | Manager                               | .. 6 furlongs  | .. All people can stay.                  |
| 30 Thiruppanandal Choultry, Sannadhi Street, Rameswaram. | Srilasri Arulnanthi Thambiran         | .. Do.   | .. All communities can stay. Meals free. |
| 31 Chittan Kanthiya Devendra Choultry, Rameswaram.       | Manager                               | .. 3 furlongs  | .. All communities can stay.             |
| 32 Bagayya Chettiar Choultry, Rameswaram.                | Do.                                   | .. 4 furlongs  | .. Andhras only can stay.                |
| 33 Bezawada Venkita Reddy Choultry, Rameswaram.          | Agent                                 | .. Do.   | .. Do.                                   |
| 34 Sait Manicka Sait Gorandas Choultry, Rameswaram.      | Manager                               | .. Do.   | .. Hindustanies only can stay.           |



|    |   |                                     |      |                                  |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Karlabodi Samala Ammal Choultry, West Street, Rameswaram. | Do.                                 | -    | -                                | Do.   | - | - | Only Annas can stay.  |
| 36 | Sivabax Bakla Choultry, Rameswaram.                       | Peethambara Panda                   | -    | -                                | Do.   | - | - | Hindustanice can stay.  |
| 37 | Rest House, Mantapam Camp.                                | Central Marine Fisheries, Mandapam. | -    | -                                | 4 furlongs from Mantapam Camp.                  | - | - | Accommodation only. Double room. Rent Rs. 6. Single room rent Rs. 2.50. |
| 38 | Ramanathapuram Choultry, Mantapam.                        | Diwan Rannad                        | -    | -                                | 4 furlongs from Mantapam Station.               | - | - | Accommodation only.   |
| 39 | Mukundarayar Choultry, Dhanushkodi.                       | Kajana Sambosankara Madurai.        | Reo, | 3 furlongs from Railway Station. | Dhanushkodi                                     | - | - | Accommodation and meals.  |
| 40 | Thanjavur Raja Choultry, Dhanushkodi.                     | Pt. Union, Mantapam                 | -    | -                                | Do.   | - | - | Do.   |
| 41 | Ramanathapuram Choultry, Dhanushkodi.                     | Diwan Rannad                        | -    | -                                | Do.   | - | - | Do.   |
| 42 | Ramanathapuram Choultry, Devipetnam.                      | Do.                                 | -    | -                                | 10 miles from Rannad Station.                   | - | - | Kanji Dharmam for poor people.  |
| 43 | Rayar Chattram, Devipetnam.                               | Sri Sambosankara Rao Madurai.       | -    | -                                | Do.   | - | - | Accommodation and meals to poor people.                                 |
| 44 | Ramanathapuram Choultry, Attangarai.                      | Diwan Rannad                        | -    | -                                | 3 miles from Station.                           | - | - | Accommodation and Kanji to poor people.                                 |
| 45 | Chella Boopala Chattram, Rannad.                          | Do.                                 | -    | -                                | One mile from Rannad Station.                   | - | - | Accommodation and Kanji to poor people.                                 |
| 46 | Ramanathapuram Choultry, at T. U. Mangai                  | Do.                                 | -    | -                                | Three miles from T. U. Mangai, Railway Station. | - | - | Accommodation only.   |

## APPENDIX V.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF POST OFFICES IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM  
DIVISION AS ON NOVEMBER 1971.*Explanation of Symbols.*

HSG—Higher Selection Grade.

LSG—Lower Selection Grade.

(I)—Class I Time Scale Sub-office.

(II)—Class II Time Scale Sub-office.

(III)—Class III Time Scale Sub-office.

(CO)—Combined Office.

PCO—Public Call Office.

\*—Cash Office.

TSO—Town Sub-Office.

I.—BOs vested with Insurance

TBO—Town Branch Office.

ND—No Delivery Office.

S—BOs vested with Savings Bank Powers.

R—BOs vested with direct communication with RMS.

E—Experimental Office.

LIST OF POST OFFICES WHICH DELIVER EXPRESS DELIVERY  
ARTICLES AND WHERE LATE FEE POSTING FACILITIES HAVE  
BEEN PROVIDED ON SUNDAY AS ON APRIL 1, 1971.

- 1 Alagappapuram LSG S.O.
- 2 Devakottai LSG S.O.
- 3 Ilaiyangudi LSG S.O.
- 4 Kallukatti (T/S C.I.I SO) (No ED facility).
- 5 Kamudi LSG S.O.
- 6 Karaikkudi HSG H.O.
- 7 Kilakkarai LSG S.O.
- 8 Manamadurai LSG S.O.
- 9 Mudukulattur LSG S.O.
- 10 Paramagudi LSG S.O.
- 11 Ramanathapuram HSG S.O.
- 12 Rameswaram LSG S.O.
- 13 Sivaganga LSG S.O.
- 14 Tiruppattur LSG S.O.

*Names of Offices under Karaikkudi H.O. (Second vol.)*

**Karikkudi HSG (CO) PCO \***  
(Karikkudi 1).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <i>Alagappapuram</i> (CO) PCO LSG<br>(Karaikkudi 3) TSO  | Mallakottai<br>Padathampatti<br>Pillar<br>Sambanur SR<br>Sevarakottai<br>Veppankulam S<br>Vethiyur S  |
| 2 <i>Alagappa Engineering College</i> PCO<br>TSO (II) (Karaikkudi 4).  | 20 <i>Kallukatti</i> ND (CO) PCO (I) TSO  |
| 3 <i>Amaravathipudur</i> (III)   | 21 <i>Kallupatti</i> (III)<br>Visalayankottai S   |
| 4 <i>Anandur</i> (III)<br>Aiyangudi S.<br>Govindamangalam S<br>Kalladithidal S<br>Valanai S  | 22 <i>Kanadukathan</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Nemathanpatti S   |
| 5 <i>Ariyakudi</i> III (PCO)<br>Illuppagudi S<br>Unjanai.  | 23 <i>Kandanur</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Kandanur Perumalkoil S TBO  |
| <i>Athikadu Thekkur</i> (III)  | 24 <i>Kandavarayanpatti</i> (CO) PCO (III)<br>Mahibalanpatti S<br>Sundakadu<br>Velangudi  |
| 6 <i>Attangudi</i> (CO) PCO (III)  | 25 <i>Kandramanickam</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Naduvikottai S<br>Pattamangalam SR  |
| 7 <i>Ceeri Campus</i> (III) ND TSO   | 26 <i>Karaikkudi Bus Stand</i> (III) PCO DN<br>TSO.   |
| 8 <i>Chadurvedamangalam</i> (III)  | 27 <i>Kilasevalpatti</i> (CO) (I) PCO<br>Avanipatti S<br>Ilaiyathakudi S<br>Iraniyur S<br>Kattubawa Pallivasal S<br>N. Shanmuganathapuri S<br>P. Alagapuri S ND TBO<br>Sirukudalpatti S |
| 9 Allampatti S<br>Ayyapatti S<br>Kollampatti S<br>Kalappur S<br>Muraiyur S<br>Sathurusankarakottai S<br>Surakudi S                         | 28 <i>Kothamangalam-R</i> (CO) (III)<br>Lakshmipuram S  |
| 10 <i>Chettinad</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Chockalingampudur S   | 29 <i>Kottaiyur</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Alagapuri Kottaiyur S  |
| 11 <i>Chinnakeeramangalam</i> III<br>Karukathakudi<br>Melappaneiyur S<br>Muppaiyur<br>Orikottai S<br>Sevvaipettai S<br>Thoonugudi S        | 30 <i>Kunnakudi</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>Koratte S  |
| 12 <i>Devakottai</i> LSG (CO) PCO *<br>Arakottai S<br>Hanumanthagudi S<br>Kannangudi S<br>Maviduthikkottai S<br>Teralappur S<br>Vengalur S | 31 <i>Managiri</i> (III)<br>Alangurdi<br>Kovilur S<br>Kuthalur S<br>Patharakudi S   |
| 13 <i>Devakottai Arch</i> PCO ND (III) TSO   | 32 <i>Mangalakudi</i> (III)<br>Andavoorani S<br>Sirumalaikottai S   |
| 14 <i>Devakottai Courts</i> ND (III) TSO   | 33 <i>Muthupattinam</i> (III) ND TSO  |
| 15 <i>Devakottai Extension</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>TSO<br>Eluvankottai S  | 34 <i>Nachiapuram</i> (III)<br>Athikaram S<br>Siruvayal S<br>Pillayarapatti S   |
| 16 <i>Devakottai Palace</i> ND PCO (III) TSO   | 35 <i>Nambuthalai</i> EDSO  |
| 17 <i>Devakottai Road</i> (II) PCO (CO)<br>(Karaikkudi 5).   | 36 <i>O'Siruvayal</i> (CO) PCO (III)<br>Palavangudi S   |
| 18 <i>Eriyur</i> EDSO  | 37 <i>Pandugudi</i> (III)   |
| 19 <i>Kallal</i> (CO) PCO LSG<br>A. Karungulam<br>Arakottai S<br>Aranmanai Siruvayal S<br>Chockanathapuram SR<br>Kurunthampattu S          | 38 <i>Pallathur</i> (CO) PCO (II)<br>A. C. School ND S TBO  |

## Names of Offices under Karaikkudi H.O (Secnd Class)—cont.

- 39 *Peryakarai* (III)  
Pavanakottai S  
Velayuthapattinam
- 40 *Puduvayal* (CO) PCO (II)  
Mitravayal S  
Peerkalakad S  
Peryakottai (Puduvayal) S  
Sithivayal S  
Sakkottai S
- 41 *Puliyai* (CO) (III)  
Naivayal S  
Oranikottai S  
Thidakottai S
- 42 *Sarakanai* (CO) PCO (I)  
Kumaravelur S  
Puliyaditharman S  
Shanmuganathapattinam S  
Sookanathapuram Sarakanai  
Thirani
- 43 *Sekkalai* (CO) PCO (II) TSO  
(Karaikkudi 2.)  
Kalanivasal S.  
Subramaniapuram ND S TBO
- 44 *Senjai* ND (III) TSO
- 45 *Shanmuganathapuram* (CO) PCO (III)  
Kandadevi S
- 46 *Silambani* EDSO ND TSO
- 47 *Singampunari* (CO) PCO (I)  
Kannamangalapatti S  
Kirungakottai S  
Piranmalai S
- 48 *S. M. Hospital* EDSO TSO
- 49 *Sundarapandianpattinam* (III)
- 50 *Tirukoshtiyur* (III)  
Kattambur
- 51 *Tiruppattur* (R) LSG CO PCO\*  
Karaiyur  
Kottaiyriuppu S  
Nedumaram
- 52 *Tiruvadanai* (CO) PCO LSG\*  
Anjukottai S  
Kottagudi S  
Thinayathur S  
Thiruvethiyur S
- 53 *Tiruwegampet* (III)  
Radhanur  
Sekkakudi S
- 54 *Tondi* (CO) PCO.  
Kurumilangudi S  
Pasipattinam  
Pudupattinam  
Vattadam S.
- 55 *Vellayapuram* (III)  
Nilamalaiyamangalam S  
Oriyur S

## SUMMARY FOR KARAIKKUDI H. O.

| H. O. | LSG. | I. | II. | III. | EDSO. | EDBO. | Total. |
|-------|------|----|-----|------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1     | 5    | 5  | 12  | 29   | 4     | 105   | 161    |

Number of delivery Post Offices = 149 (1 + 46 + 102).

Number of no delivery Post Offices = 12 (9 + 3).

## II. Names of offices under Ramanathapuram Head Office (Second Class) —

## Ramanathapuram HSG (CO) PCO\*—

- 1 *Abiraman* (CO) PCO (I)  
Abiraman Bazaar ND.  
Anaiyur.  
Melakanniseri S.  
Melakodumalur S.  
Nagarathakurichi S.  
Nallukurichi S.  
Natham Abiraman S.  
Sadayanendal S.
- 2 *Alagankulam* (CO) PCO (III)—  
Athankarai S.
- 3 *Bosenagar* ND PCO (III) TSO
- 4 *Chinnakadai* (CO) ND PCO (III)  
TSO—  
Paramagudi Bazaar ND TBO
- 5 *Devipattinam* (CO) PCO (II)—  
Chittarkottai S.  
Devipattinam South ND S.  
Medhavanur S.
- P. Kodikulem S.  
Peruvayal S.  
Pottagavayal S.  
Siruvayal S.
- 6 *Emaneswaram* (CO) PCO (II)—  
Konnappanendal S.  
Kumarakurichi S.  
Munaivenri S.  
Regunathamadai S.
- 7 *Ilayangudi*—R LSG (CO) PCO—  
Karunchutti S.  
Keelayur S  
Kottaiyur (Ilayangudi) S.  
Melayur S.  
Mettur S.  
Thayamangalam S.  
Uttamanur.
- 8 *Irumeni* (III)—  
Kadukkavalasai S.

## II. Names of offices under Ramanathapuram H.O. (Second Class)—cont.

- 9 **Kadaladi** (CO) PCO. II—  
Appanur S.  
Kadugusandai S.  
Kilaselvanur S.  
Mariyur S.  
Melaselvanur S.  
Oppilam S.  
Pothikulam S.  
Tulukkamaraiyur S.
- 10 **Kalaiyarkoil** (CO) (I)—  
Andichchoorani S.  
Kattendal Sukhanurani S.  
Mangalam Kalaiyarkoil S.  
Marakattur S.  
Mudikarai S.  
Paruthikanmoi S.  
Pulikanmai S.  
Thuvaralankanmoi S.  
Usilangulam S.  
Velarondal S.
- 11 **Kamudi** LSG (CO) PCO—  
Kavadipatti S.  
Kottaimedu SR.  
Kudakulam S.  
Mandalamanickam S.  
Pakkuvetti S.  
Perumalthevanpatti S.  
Pudukottai (Kamudi) S.  
Ramasamipatti S.  
Sundarapuram ND TBO  
Valayapikulam S.
- 12 **Kattuparamagudi** ND (III) TSO—
- 13 **Kilakkarai** LSG (CO) PCO—  
Ervadi SR.  
Eravadi Durha S.  
Idambadal S.  
Kanjirangudi S.  
Kilakkarai North ND S TBO  
Kilakkarai East ND S TBO.  
Kilakkarai West ND S TBO  
Kumbidumadurai S.  
Mayakulam S.  
Nathamkulapadam S.
- 14 **Kilapungudi** (III).  
Alatamanagiri.  
Alavakottai SR.  
Kattanipatti S.  
Madagupatti SR.  
Namanur S.
- 15 **Manamadurai** LSG (CO) PCO\*  
Idaikattur  
Kannar Street ND TBO.  
Kattikulam  
Kilapasalai S.  
Kilamelgudi  
Melapasalai.  
Melapidavoor S.  
Milanganur S.  
Muthanendal SR.  
Rajagambiram S.  
Savarirapatnam S.  
Seikalathur S.  
S. Karaikkudi.
- 16 **Manamadurai** R.S. (CO) PCO ND/ (III) TSO.
- 17 **Maniapam** (CO) PCO (II).
- 18 **Maniapam Camp** (CO) PCO (II).  
Vedalai S.
- 19 **Marine Fisheries** (CO) (III)
- 20 **Mudukulathur** LSG (CO) PCO\*  
Chitrangudi S.  
Ilanjambur S.  
Kakkur.  
Keeranur S.  
Kidith rukki.  
Kilathooval S.  
Mahindi Michaelpatnam.  
Marandai S.  
Melasirupodu S.  
Missal S.  
Mudukulattur ND TBO.  
Pooseri S.  
Sadayameri.  
Sawrirypatnam (Marandai) S.  
Teriruvelli.  
Vadakkur ND TBO.  
Veerambal.  
Vennirvaikkal.  
Vilangulattur S.
- 21 **Nainarkoil** (III)—  
Akiranesi.  
Chadurvedamangalam S.  
Gangaikondan S.  
Karandagudi S.  
Nagaram S.  
P. Siranikottai S.  
Udayagudi S.  
Vallam S.
- 22 **Norikkudi** (CO) (III)—  
Dharmam S.  
Irunjirai S.  
Isali S.  
Kattanur S.  
Maraikulam S.  
Nalur S.  
Siruvanur S.
- 23 **Nattarasankottai** (CO) PCO (II)  
Panangudi.  
Sengulipatti.
- 24 **Okkur** (CO) (III)  
Kalaiyarmangalam S.  
Solapuram (SVA) SR.
- 25 **Paganeri** (CO) PCO (II)—  
Kalekanmoi S.  
Natarajapuram S.  
Sattarasampatti.
- 26 **Pamban** (CO) PCO (II)
- 27 **Pambur** (III)  
Sambakulam.  
South Kavanur.  
Sathanur.
- 28 **Ponaiikkulam** (CO) PCO (II)  
Athiyuthu S.  
Perungulam S.  
Puduvalasai S.

## II. Names of offices under Ramanathapuram H.O. (Second Class)—cont.

29. **Paramagudi LSG (CO) PCO\***  
 Alanganoor S.  
 Ariyanandal S.  
 Kalayur S.  
 Kamudakudi S.  
 Melayagudi S.  
 Pandikanmoi S.  
 Sembangudi S.  
 Telichathanallur S.  
 Tennavarayan Pudukottai S.  
 Tiruvarangam S.  
 T. Karungulam S.  
 Urappuli S.  
 Venkatankurichi S.  
 Venthoni.  
 Vilathur S.
30. **Parthibanur (CO) PCO (II)—**  
 Chinnakannanur S.  
 Keelaperungurai S.  
 Melaperungurai S.  
 Paralai S.  
 Peruvolangudi S.  
 Pidariseri.  
 Pudukkudi S.  
 Sudiyyur S.
31. **Peraiyur (R) (CO)  
 PCO (III)—**  
 Senkottaipatti S.
32. **Periyakottai (III)**  
 Kallurani S.  
 Muthurasan S.  
 Vembattur S.
33. **Periyapatnam (III)—**  
 Muthupettai  
 Nainamanickam.  
 Regunathapuram.  
 Vannangundy.
34. **Pogalur (CO) PCO (II)—**  
 Ariyakudi (Pogalur) S.  
 Ekkakudi S.  
 Ettivayal S.  
 Eilakottai S.  
 Kamankottai SR.  
 Mennandhi S.<sup>1</sup>  
 S. Kodikulam S.  
 Ulaiyur S.  
 Valanadu SR.  
 Valasai S.
35. **Pudumadam (III)**  
 Vellariodai S.
36. **Pudur Ilayngudi PCO (III)—**  
 K. nnamangalam S  
 Melaseithur S  
 Sathani S  
 Sodhugudi
37. **Rajasingamangalam (CO) PCO (II)**  
 Avarendal S  
 Irudayapuram S  
 Kavanur S  
 Kokkurani S  
 Sanaveli S  
 Savariarpatnem (RJS) S  
 Uppoor S  
 Vettukulam S
38. **Ramanathapuram Bus Stand ND  
 (III) TSO**  
 Ramanathapuram Bazar ND  
 TBO  
 Ramanathapuram West ND S TBO
39. **Rameswaram (CO) PCO LSG**  
 Ramatheertham  
 Rameswaram East ND S TBO  
 Rameswaram R. S. ND S TBO  
 Rameswaram Road ND S  
 Olaikudi S
40. **Salaiygram (CO) PCO (II)—**  
 Akkavayal  
 Alavadangan S  
 Ariyankottai S  
 Gopalapattinam  
 Muthur S  
 Rajani S  
 Sakkur  
 Samudram S  
 Nathanur S  
 Sengudi S  
 Suranam S I  
 Thogavur S  
 Vandal S  
 Visvamoor
41. **Sikkil (RMN) (CO) PCO (III)**  
 Kilakidaram S  
 Melakidaram S  
 Vallakulam S  
 Valinokkam S
42. **Sivaganga LSG (CO) PCO<sub>2</sub>\***  
 Alagapuri (SVA) S  
 Idayamelur S  
 Kandani S  
 Koothandom S  
 Puthupathi S  
 Muthur (SVA) S  
 Padamathur S  
 Periyakannanur  
 Pilloor  
 Sekkandi  
 Satharasankottai  
 Sivaganga College ND S TBO  
 Tamarakki S  
 Tirumanjulai S
43. **Sivaganga Courts ND (III) TSO**
44. **Sivaganga North ND (III) TSO**
45. **Tangaachchimattam (CO) PCO (IIR)**
46. **Tirupalakudi (RAM) EDSO (CO)  
 PCO**
47. **Tirupppachetti (CO) (III)**  
 Kanoor S  
 Kothangulam S  
 Palayanur S  
 Thanjakoar S
48. **Tiruppullani (CO) (II) PCO**  
 Kuthakottai S  
 Methalodai  
 Pudukoil S  
 Thinaikulam S

## II. Names of offices under Ramanathapuram H.O. (Second Class)—cont.

## 49. Tiruppuvanam (CO) PCO LSG—

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Allinagaram               | S |
| Ambalathadi               | S |
| A. Mukkulam               | S |
| Kondagai-north            | S |
| Ladanendal                | S |
| Manalur                   |   |
| Melarangiam               | S |
| Poovandi                  | S |
| Piramanur                 | S |
| Pulvoikarai               | S |
| Tiruppuvanam Pudur ND TBO |   |
| Valacheri                 | S |

## 50. Tiru-Uttirakosamangai (III)—

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Kalari        | S |
| Mallai        | S |
| Mattiyarendal |   |
| Nallirukkai   | S |

## 51. Toruvallur (III)—

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Chittur | S |
| Kavanur | S |
| Kiliyur | S |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Kulethur      | S |
| Mudalur       | S |
| Vairavanendal | S |

## 52. Uchipuli (CO) (II)—

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mangundu     | S |
| Rettaiyurani | S |

## 53. Velipatrnam (CO) PCO (I) TSO

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Attargudi        | S  |
| Kalukkurani      | S  |
| Kattooranai      | S  |
| Kothiyarkottai   | S  |
| Melakottai       | S  |
| Narayanamangalam | S  |
| Peravoor         | S  |
| Puttendal        | S  |
| Sakkarakottai    | S  |
| Sathankulam      | S  |
| Shoelandur       | S  |
| Therkutharavai   | S  |
| Valantharavai    | SR |

## 54. Viracholan (CO) (III)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Punavasal | S |
|-----------|---|

## SUMMARY OF RAMANATHAPURAM H.O.

| H.O.                               | LSG. | I. | II. | III. | EDSO. | E.D.B.O. | TOTAL      |
|------------------------------------|------|----|-----|------|-------|----------|------------|
| 1                                  | 9    | 3  | 15  | 26   | 11    | 272      | 324        |
| Number of delivery Post Offices    |      |    |     |      |       | = 303    | (1+47+255) |
| Number of no delivery Post Offices |      |    |     |      |       | = 24     | (7+17)     |

CLASSIFIED LIST OF POST OFFICES IN VIRUDHUNAGAR  
DIVISION AS ON APRIL 1, 1971.

—o—

Name of offices under Virudhunagar Head Office (Second class)  
Virudhunagar H.S.G.

## 1. Ammankovilpatti ND TSO (III)—

## 2. Aruppukkottai LSG (CO) PCO\*+

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Amanakkunatham      | S |
| Chettikurichi       | S |
| Neeravikarisalkulam | S |
| Puliyuran           | S |
| Ramaswamynagar      | S |
| Sembatti            | S |
| Sukkilnatham        | S |
| Vellyapuram         | S |

## 3. Aruppukkottai Bazar ND TSO (III)

Aruppukkottai R.S. TBO ND S

## 4. Aruppukkottai East ND TSO (I)—

## 5. Aruppukkottai West ND TSO (III)

Periyapuliampatti TBG ND S

## 6. Chatrapatti (CO) PCO (III)—

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Nallamaneickenpatti | S |
| Nattampatti         | S |
| Ramalingapuram      | S |

## 7. Elayirampanna (CO) PCO (III)

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Karisalpatti       | S |
| Panayadipatti      | S |
| Sankarapandiapuram | S |

## 8. Erichinatham (III)—

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Kopinaickenpatti | S |
| Mullipatti       | S |
| Povali           | S |
| Pudukkottai      | S |
| Sengundrapuram   | S |

## 9. Kalkurichi (CO) (III) PCO—

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Perunjalaipudupatti | S |
|---------------------|---|

## 10. Kallurani (III)—

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Kalaiyarkarisalkulam | S |
| Kilamudimannarkottai | S |
| Muthuramalingapuram  | S |

## 11. Kariapatti (CO) PCO (II)—

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Aviyur              | S |
| Chatrapuliyanakulam | S |
| Chittumunadappu     | S |

*Name of offices under Virudhunagar Head Office (Second class)  
Virudhunagar H.S.G.—cont.*

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mudukkankulam                             | S | 24. Pudupalayam TSO (III) ND              |   |
| Muchittai kurichi                         | S | 25. Rajapalayam ISG (CO) PCO*             |   |
| Pambatti                                  | S | Cholapuram South PCO                      | S |
| V. Nangur                                 | S | (WEF 27-7-1971)                           |   |
| 12. Kovilankulam EDSO                     |   | Devadanam                                 | S |
| 13. Kumarasamyrajanagar TSO (III)         |   | Gopalapuram                               | S |
| 14. Madavarvilagam ND TSO (III)           |   | Kilarajakularaman                         | S |
| 15. Mallanginar (CO) PCO (III)            |   | Meenakshipuram                            | S |
| Alagisnallur                              | S | Mount Zion                                | S |
| Manthoppu                                 | S | Perumalpatti                              | S |
| Periaperalli                              | S | R. Reddiapatti                            | S |
| Villipathiri                              | S | Samsikapuram                              | S |
| 16. Mohamedsahil-puram (CO) PCO (III)     |   | Solapuram (Rym.)                          | S |
| Melapattinamkarisalkulam                  | S | Sunderanashiapuram                        | S |
| 17. Muhavur (CO) (III) PCO WEF 15-11-1971 |   | Thombakulam                               | S |
| Pottalpatti                               | S | Vadakarai                                 | S |
| Puthur (Seithur)                          | S | 26. Rajapalayam Bazaar (CO) ND TSO (II)   |   |
| 18. Nenmeni (III)                         |   | Cotton Market TBO ND                      | S |
| Appanaickenpatti                          | S | Sammampuram TBO ND                        | S |
| Chockalingapuram                          | S | 27. Ramasamyrajanagar ND (III)            |   |
| Kosugundu                                 | S | 28. Reddiapatti (III)                     |   |
| Masarpatti                                | S | Pungamarathupatti                         | S |
| Pudupatti                                 | S | 29. Sankaralingapuram (III)               |   |
| Settudayarpatti                           | S | Mudalipatti                               | S |
| 19. Palayampatti (CO) PCO (II)            |   | 30. Sattur ISG (CO) PCO*                  |   |
| Kattangudi                                | S | Gollapatti                                | S |
| Vakkamangundu                             | S | Mettamalai                                | S |
| 20. Pondalgudi (CO) PCO (III)             |   | Mulliseval                                | S |
| Koppus, thampatti                         | S | Naduvarpatti                              | S |
| Vaihuvarpatti                             | S | Nalli                                     | S |
| Vembur                                    | S | Odaipatti (Sattur)                        | S |
| 21. Paralachi (III)                       |   | Othayal Mettupatti                        | S |
| Kilgudi                                   | S | Padandal                                  | S |
| Musittai kurichi                          | S | Subbiahpuram                              | S |
| Poolangal                                 | S | Surangudi                                 | S |
| Sudhamadam                                | S | Thungareddiapatti                         | S |
| Thoppulakarai                             | S | Uppattur                                  | S |
| Vadakkunatham                             | S | Venkatachelapuram                         | S |
| 22. Pennington Market TSO ND (III)        |   | 31. Sayalgudi (CO) PCO (II)               |   |
| Houtonpuram TBG ND                        | S | Kannirajapuram                            | S |
| Mangapuram TBG ND                         | S | Konbuthi                                  | S |
| 23. Perunali (CO) PCO (II)                |   | Kovilangulam (SGD)                        | S |
| Idivilagi                                 | S | Mukkaiyur                                 | S |
| Kokkarenkottai                            | S | Naripaiyur                                | S |
| Kuruvadi                                  | S | Pillaiyarkulam (SGD)                      | S |
| K. Veppankulam                            | S | 32. Seithur (CO) PCO (III)                |   |
| M. Pudukulam, Pammanandal                 | S | 33. Settiyarpatti (CO) (II) PCO 15-10-71— |   |
| Nevalpatti, S. Tharai kudi                | S | Ayankollangondan S.                       |   |
| Tirumalukandankottai,                     |   | Therkuvanganal ur S.                      |   |
| Uchinatham                                |   | Zaminkollangondan S.                      |   |
|   |   | 34. Sivakasi ISG (CO) PCO*                |   |
|   |   | Anaiyur S.                                |   |
|   |   | Anuppankulam S.                           |   |
|   |   | Kakkivadampatti S.                        |   |
|   |   | Mamsapuram (Maraneri) S.                  |   |
|   |   | Maraneri S.                               |   |
|   |   | M. Pudupatti S.                           |   |
|   |   | Sengamalanashiapuram S.                   |   |



*Name of offices under Virudhunagar Head Office (Second class)  
Virudhunagar H.S.G.—cont.*

- Sinnakamanpatti S.  
Sitturajapuram S.  
Vilampatti S.  
Visw-nathan S.
35. Sivakasi Bazaar TSO (II) ND
36. Sivakasi West TSO (III)—  
Injar S.  
Sachipuram S.
37. Sriviputtur LSG (CO) PCO\*  
Achankulam S.  
Achanthavilthan S.  
Malli S.  
Malli-pudur S.  
Nachiar Kovil S.  
Nathikudi S.  
Pillaiyarkulam S.  
Pillaiyarnathur S.  
P. Ramachandrapuram S.  
T. Manakaseri S.  
Vaithilingapuram S.
38. Sundarapandiam (CO) PCO (II)  
Kunnur S.  
Mangalam (RMN) S.  
Moovaraivendran S.  
Nedungulam S.  
P. Sallipatti S.  
Ramachandrapuram S.  
Villuppanur S.
39. Tamilnadu Cements Alangulam  
(CO) (III)
40. Tiruchuli (CO) PCO (II)  
Aladipatti S.  
Anaikulam S.  
Ilupaiyur S.  
Kuchampatti S.  
Punnaiyur S.  
P. Thottankulam S.
41. Tiruttangal (CO) PCO (II)  
Alaiperathupatti S.  
Anaikuttam S.  
Naranapuram S.  
Vadamalapuram S.
42. Thulukkappatti R.S. (CO) (II)  
Avadayapuram S.  
Kottaiyurgunnamykoil S.  
Sadapatti (T) S.  
Thulukkappatti S.
43. Vembakottai (CO) (II) PCO WEF  
16-8-1971.  
Alankulam S.  
Appayanayakkanpatti (VBS) S.  
Edirkottai S.  
Guhanparai S.
- Kallamanaickenpatti S.  
Kangarseval S.  
Kundairruppu S.  
Nakshimpuram (Sattur) S.  
Sevalpatti (Sattur) S.  
Valayapatti S.  
Varaganur S.
44. Virudhunagar, Bazaar (CO) ND  
TSO (II) PCO  
Allampatti ND TBO S.
45. Virudhunagar East (CO) (I) TSO  
PCO—  
Amathur S.  
Avalsurampatti S.  
Chatrareddiapatti S.  
Kokkalancheri S.  
Kullursandai S.  
Malaipatti S.  
Mettugundu S.  
Paluvanatham S.  
Vadamalajkurichi S.  
Vallur S.  
Vellioor S.
46. Virudhunagar Industrial Estate  
(CO) (III)—  
Inam Reddiapatti S.  
Meesalur S.  
Pattampudur S.  
Soolakarai S.
47. Virudhunagar R.S. TSO (III) ND  
Kamarajanagar TBO ND S.  
Virudhunagar Extension TBO  
ND S.  
Virudhunagar Housing Unit  
TBO ND S.
48. Virudhunagar West TSO (III) ND
49. Watrap LSG PCO (CO)  
Ilандаikulam S.  
Kadaneri S.  
Kansapuram S.  
Kariselkulam S.  
Kottaiyur (Watrap) S.  
Kummapatti (PCO) S.  
Maharajapuram S.  
Pudupatti (Watrap) PCO S.  
Seshapuram S.  
Sethunarayanapuram S.  
Thailapuram S.
50. Thayilpatti (III)  
Selwarpatti S.  
Subramaniapuram S.  
Vetrilaiyurani S.

## SUMMARY FOR VIRUDHUNAGAR DIVISION

| H.O. | LSG | I | II | III | EDSO | EDBO | Total. |
|------|-----|---|----|-----|------|------|--------|
| 1    | 6   | 2 | 14 | 26  | 1    | 195  | 245    |

No. of Delivery POs. 222 (1+16+185).

No. of No Delivery POs. 23 (13 + 10).

PARTICULARS OF SUB-DIVISIONS AND HEAD AND SUB-POST OFFICES  
IN SUB-DIVISION WITH NUMBER OF BRANCH OFFICES ATTACHED  
TO EACH AS ON APRIL, 1971.

| Virudhunagar Sub-Division— |                                 |    |  | Srivilliputtur Sub-Division— |                             |     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| 1                          | Aruppukkottai LSG               | 8  |  | 1                            | Ammankoilpatti              | ..  |  |
| 2                          | Aruppukkottai Bazaar            | 1  |  | 2                            | Chatrapatti                 | 3   |  |
| 3                          | Aruppukkottai East              | .. |  | 3                            | Elay irampennai             | 3   |  |
| 4                          | Aruppukkottai West              | 1  |  | 4                            | Kumarasamirajanagar         | ..  |  |
| 5                          | Erichinatham                    | 5  |  | 5                            | Madavarvilagam              | ..  |  |
| 6                          | Kallurani                       | 3  |  | 6                            | Mobamedsahibpuram           | 1   |  |
| 7                          | Kalkurichi                      | 1  |  | 7                            | Muhavur                     | 2   |  |
| 8                          | Kariapatti                      | 7  |  | 8                            | Nemmeni                     | 6   |  |
| 9                          | Kovilangulam EDSO               | .. |  | 9                            | Pennington Market           | 2   |  |
| 10                         | Mallankinar                     | 4  |  | 10                           | Pudupalavam                 | ..  |  |
| 11                         | Panthalgudi                     | 3  |  | 11                           | Rajapalayam LSG             | 13  |  |
| 12                         | Palayampatti                    | 2  |  | 12                           | Rajapalayam Bazaar          | 2   |  |
| 13                         | Paralachi                       | 6  |  | 13                           | Sattur LSG                  | 12  |  |
| 14                         | Perunali                        | 10 |  | 14                           | Seithur                     | ..  |  |
| 15                         | Ramasamirajanagar               | 1  |  | 15                           | Settiyarpatti               | 3   |  |
| 16                         | Reddiapatti                     | 1  |  | 16                           | Sivakasi LSG                | 14  |  |
| 17                         | Sankaralingapuram               | 6  |  | 17                           | Sivakasi Bazaar             | ..  |  |
| 18                         | Sayalgudi                       | 6  |  | 18                           | Sivakasi West               | 2   |  |
| 19                         | Tiruchuli                       | 4  |  | 19                           | Srivilliputtur LSG          | 11  |  |
| 20                         | Thulukkappatti R.S.             | .. |  | 20                           | Sundarapandiam              | 7   |  |
| 21                         | Virudhunagar HSG                | 1  |  | 21                           | Tamilnadu Cements Alangulam | ..  |  |
| 22                         | Virudhunagar Bazaar             | 11 |  | 22                           | Tiruttangal                 | 4   |  |
| 23                         | Virudhunagar East               | 4  |  | 23                           | Vembakottai                 | 11  |  |
| 24                         | Virudhunagar Industrial Estate. | 3  |  | 24                           | Watrap LSG                  | 11  |  |
| 25                         | Virudhunagar R.S.               | .. |  |                              |                             |     |  |
| 26                         | Virudhunagar West               | .. |  |                              |                             |     |  |
|                            |                                 | 88 |  |                              |                             | 107 |  |

## SUMMARY FOR VIRUDHUNAGAR DIVISION AS ON APRIL 1, 1971

|                | H.O. | LSG | I  | II | III | EDSO | BOs | Total. |
|----------------|------|-----|----|----|-----|------|-----|--------|
| Virudhunagar   | 1    | 1   | 2  | 6  | 15  | 1    | 88  | 114    |
| Sub-Division.  | ..   | 5   | .. | 3  | 11  | ..   | 107 | 131    |
| Srivilliputtur | ..   | 5   | .. | 3  | 11  | ..   | 107 | 131    |
| Total          | ..   | 1   | 6  | 2  | 14  | 26   | 1   | 195    |

LIST OF POST OFFICES WHICH DELIVER EXPRESS DELIVERY  
ARTICLES AND WHERE LATE FEE POSTING FACILITIES HAVE  
BEEN PROVIDED ON SUNDAY AS ON APRIL 1, 1971.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Aruppukkottai LSG S.O. | 4 Sivakasi LSG S.O.       |
| 2 Rajapalayam LSG S.O.   | 5 Srivilliputtur LSG S.O. |
| 3 Sattur LSG S.O.        | 6 Virudhunagar H.O.       |

**NAME, NUMBER, EQUIPPED CAPACITY AND WORKING CONNECTIONS  
OF THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM  
DISTRICT AS ON NOVEMBER 1, 1971.**

| <i>Serial number and name of<br/>Exchange,</i> |                    |    |    | <i>Equipped<br/>capacity.</i> | <i>Working<br/>connections.</i> |
|--|--------------------|----|----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1)  |                    |    |    | (2)                           | (3)                             |
| 1  | Aruppukkottai      | .. | .. | 200                           | 186                             |
| 2  | Attangudi          | .. | .. | 35                            | 13                              |
| 3  | Bogalur            | .. | .. | 10                            | 5                               |
| 4  | Chettinad          | .. | .. | 50+50                         | 77                              |
| 5  | Devakottai         | .. | .. | 100/600                       | 92                              |
| 6  | Elayirampennai     | .. | .. | 25                            | 10                              |
| 7  | Ilayangudi         | .. | .. | 35                            | 32                              |
| 8  | Kamudi             | .. | .. | 35                            | 35                              |
| 9  | Karaikkudi         | .. | .. | 500/600                       | 395                             |
| 10   | Kilakkarai         | .. | .. | 50+50                         | 96                              |
| 11   | Kilasevalpatti     | .. | .. | 25                            | 11                              |
| 12   | Manamadurai        | .. | .. | 35                            | 31                              |
| 13   | Mantapam           | .. | .. | 50                            | 21                              |
| 14   | Mudukulattur       | .. | .. | 25                            | 18                              |
| 15   | Paganeri           | .. | .. | 25                            | 11                              |
| 16   | Pamban             | .. | .. | 10                            | 9                               |
| 17   | Paramagudi         | .. | .. | 200                           | 148                             |
| 18   | Puduvayal          | .. | .. | 50                            | 37                              |
| 19   | Ramasamyraja Nagar | .. | .. | 25                            | 16                              |
| 20   | Rameswaram         | .. | .. | 35                            | 34                              |
| 21   | Ramanathapuram     | .. | .. | 200                           | 192                             |
| 22   | Sattur             | .. | .. | 200/600                       | 127                             |
| 23   | Singampuneri       | .. | .. | 50                            | 39                              |
| 24   | Sivaganga          | .. | .. | 50+50                         | 72                              |
| 25   | Tiruppattur        | .. | .. | 50                            | 42                              |
| 26   | Tiruppuvanam       | .. | .. | 25                            | 9                               |
| 27   | Tiruvadanai        | .. | .. | 25                            | 18                              |
| 28   | Virudhunagar       | .. | .. | 900                           | 607                             |

**LIST OF LONG DISTANCE PUBLIC CALL OFFICES IN THE RAMANATHA-  
PURAM DISTRICT.**

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Abiramam.          | 15 Panthalgudi,        |
| 2 Alagankulam.       | 16 Parthibanur.        |
| 3 Devipatnam.        | 17 Peraiyur            |
| 4 Kadaladi,          | 18 Perunali,           |
| 5 Kalkurichi.        | 19 Rajasingamangalam.  |
| 6 Kallal.            | 20 Salaigramam-        |
| 7 Kandramanickam,    | 21 Sarukani.           |
| 8 Kariyapatti,       | 22 Sayalkudi.          |
| 9 Kunnakkudi,        | 23 Shanmuganathapuram. |
| 10 Mallanginar.      | 24 Sikkil.             |
| 11 Nattarasankottai, | 25 Thiruchuli.         |
| 12 Nerkuppai.        | 26 Tiruppalakudi.      |
| 13 O'Siruvaya'.      | 27. Tiruppullani,      |
| 14 Panaikulam.       | 28. Tondi.             |

Trunk Exchange to be commissioned—Singampuneri with Nerkuppai.

Exchanges to be opened : Kallal Kandramanickam.

**LIST OF LOCAL PUBLIC CALL OFFICES IN RAMANATHAPURAM  
DISTRICT AS ON NOVEMBER 1, 1971.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Alagappapuram.                       | 30 Kottaiyur.                            |
| 2 Alagappapuram Engineering College.   | 31 Manamadurai,                          |
| 3 Ariyakkudi,                          | 32 Manamadurai West R.S.                 |
| 4 Aruppukkottai,                       | 33 Mantapam Camp.                        |
| 5 Aruppukkottai Railway Station (COB). | 34 Mantapam P.O.                         |
| 6 Attangudi.                           | 35 Mudukulattur.                         |
| 7 Bodalur.                             | 36 Paganeri.                             |
| 8 Chettinad.                           | 37 Palaymapattl.                         |
| 9 Chinnakadai.                         | 38 Pallattur.                            |
| 10 Devakottai Arch.                    | 39 Pamban.                               |
| 11 Devakottai Extension.               | 40 Paramagudi,                           |
| 12 Devakottai Palace.                  | 41 Puduwayal.                            |
| 13 Devakottai P.O.                     | 42 Ramoswaram.                           |
| 14 Devakottai Road.                    | 43 Rameswaram East.                      |
| 15 Elayirampannai.                     | 44 Ramanathapuram H.P.O.                 |
| 16 Emaneswaram.                        | 45 Ramanathapuram Railway Station (CCB). |
| 17 Ilayangudi.                         | 46 Sattur.                               |
| 18 Ilayangudi—Pudur.                   | 47 Sattur Railway Station (CCB).         |
| 19 Kallukatti.                         | 48 Sekkalai.                             |
| 20 Kamudi.                             | 49 Sivaganga.                            |
| 21 Kanadukathan.                       | 50 Sivaganga Bosenagar Town.             |
| 22 Kandanur.                           | 51 Tiruppattur.                          |
| 23 Kandavarayanpatti.                  | 52 Tiruppuvanam.                         |
| 24 Karaikkudi.                         | 53 Tiruvadanai.                          |
| 25 Karaikkudi Bus Stand.               | 54 Thangachchimatam.                     |
| 26 Karaikkudi Railway Station (CCB).   | 55 Velipatnam.                           |
| 27 Kilakkarai.                         | 56 Virudhunagar Bazaar.                  |
| 28 Kilasevalpatti.                     | 57 Virudhunagar DTO.                     |
| 29 Konapet.                            | 58 Virudhunagar East,                    |
|  | 59 Virudhunagar Railway Station.         |
|  | 60 Singampuneri.                         |

**COMBINED OFFICES IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT AS ON  
NOVEMBER 1, 1971.**

**GUARANTEED BASIS MORSE WORKING.**

1 Kamudi.

2 Thangachchimattam.

**NON-GUARANTEED MORSE WORKING.**

1 Abiramam.  
2 Alagappa College.  
3 Alagankulam,  
4 Aruppukkottai,  
5 Attangudi,  
6 Sekkalai,  
7 Chettinad,  
8 Devakottai.  
9 Devakottai Extension,  
10 Devipatnam,  
11 Elayirampennai,  
12 Emaneswaram.  
13 Ilayangudi,  
14 Kadaladi.  
15 Kalaiyarkoil.  
16 Kalkurichi.  
17 Kallal.  
18 Kallukatti.  
19 Kanadukathan.  
20 Kandanur.  
21 Kandramanickam,  
22 Kandavarayanpatti.  
23 Karaikkudi  
24 Kariyapatti.  
25 Kilakkarai.  
26 Kilasevalpatti.  
27 Konapet.  
28 Kottaiyur.  
29 Kunnakkudi.  
30 Kothamangalam.  
31 Manamadurai.  
32 Manamadurai R.S.  
33 Mantapam.  
34 Mantapam Camp.  
35 Marine Fisheries.  
36 Melasivapuri.  
37 Mudukulattur.

38 Natarasankottai.  
39 Nerkuppei.  
40 Okkur.  
41 O' Siruvayal.  
42 Paganeri.  
43 Palayamapatti,  
44 Pallattur,  
45 Pamban.  
46 Panaikkulam.  
47 Paramagudi.  
48 Parthibanur.  
49 Peraiyur (MUT).  
50 Perunali.  
51 Bogalur.  
52 Puduvayal.  
53 Ramanathapuram.  
54 Rameswaram.  
55 Rajasingamangalam,  
56 Sattur.  
57 Sarukani.  
58 Savakkudi.  
59 Singampuneri.  
60 Sivaganga.  
61 Thulukkappatti.  
62 Tiruchuli,  
63 Tiruppachetti.  
64 Tiruppattur (R).  
65 Tirupullani.  
66 Tiruppuvanam,  
67 Tiruthangal.  
68 Tiruvadanai,  
69 Tondi.  
70 Uchipuli,  
71 Veeracholam.  
72 Velipatnam.  
73 Virudhunagar Bazaar.  
74 Virudhunagar East.

**PHONE WORKING COMBINED OFFICES.**

1 Kamankottai.  
2 Mallanginar.  
3 Narikkudi,  
4 Puliya.  
5 Panthalgudi.

6 Salsigramam.  
7 Shanmuganathapuram.  
8 Sikkil.  
9 Soolakkarai.  
10 Tiruppalakudi.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### Miscellaneous Occupations.

Major occupation of the people of the District is agriculture. Trade, commerce, industry and transport are secondary occupations. Besides these, miscellaneous occupations such as the public administration, learned professions like law, engineering, medicine, teaching, etc., and the domestic and personal services, e.g., gardening, house cleaning, cooking, car driving, etc., find employment for a significant number of persons. No economic survey of these occupational groups have been conducted in the Ramanathapuram District.

The Census Reports of 1951 has dealt with the miscellaneous occupations as detailed in the list appended. In 1961 Census this classification of Miscellaneous Occupation was done away with and the whole population was divided into workers and non-workers. Workers are divided into 9 sub-divisions where a number of occupations listed in the schedule attached will almost cover the occupations listed as miscellaneous occupation in the previous Census. Census figures for both 1951 and 1961 are appended to this chapter.

*Public Administration:*—Though the headquarters of this District is located at Madurai, a number of Government offices are located at Ramanathapuram. According to the Census of 1951, the number of persons employed in the State Government Service was 1,727 of which 177 were women, and that in the Union Government Service 574 of which 22 were women. The number of municipal employees was 1,369. Of this number 129 were women. These persons were employed in the seven municipalities of the District, viz., Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Aruppukkottai, Devakottai and Karaikkudi. The number of village officers and servants including watchmen in the District was 1,063.

The Government employees get the benefit of General Provident Fund Scheme. They are also given loans to construct houses. There are a number of Public Employees' Organisations in the District, (e.g.) The Non-Gazetted Officers' Association, The District Revenue Officers' Association, etc. Their activities further improve the conditions of the Government servants.

*Medicine:*—In 1951, the number of persons engaged in the profession of medicine and other allied services was 2,210 of which 700 were women. There were 230 registered medical practitioners of whom 39 were women. There were 573 male and 66 female Vaidas and Hakims, 13 male dentists, 70 midwives, 22 male and 2 female vaccinators, 60 male and 41 female compounders, 41 male and 96 female nurses and 4 male veterinary surgeons. 606 men and 386 women find employment in a variety of job in public and private

**hospitals.** The implementation of new medical and public health schemes in the District under the Five-Year Plans has resulted in the increase of persons employed in the medical profession. At present there are about 1,705 medical practitioners in the District.

**Law:—**The number of persons who were engaged in the profession of law in 1951 was 681. Of this 261 were lawyers known by different names, e.g., Advocates, Pleaders, Vakils, Kazis and Mukhtiaris. The remaining 420 were clerks of the lawyers and petition writers. As the important courts are located at Ramanathapuram, Devakottai, Sivaganga, Manamadurai, Paramagudi, Sattur and Srivilliputtur, the lawyers are scattered over these places.

**Education:—**A large number of persons are now engaged in the field of education as teachers in schools and in colleges. According to the Census Report of 1951, about 4,534 men and 1,313 women were employed in schools, colleges and research institutions. Of these, 60 men and 4 women were working as lecturers and professors, while 3,189 males and 1,008 females were working as teachers and 1,285 males and 301 females were working as clerks and servants in the educational institutions. Since 1951 the number of persons employed in the field of education has increased as many new educational institutions have come into existence.

**Engineering Services:—**The Public Works Department, Irrigation, Chief Engineers Department, etc., provide employment for a number of engineers. There are also persons who are engaged in engineering services in private firm besides, architects and surveyors who are employed independently. In 1951 there were 232 persons engaged in engineering services. Allied to the engineering occupation are those of masons, stone cutters and brick layers who are engaged in construction work. In 1951 there were 2,011 male and 502 female workers in house construction and 779 male and 106 female stone cutters. There were also 1,193 persons engaged in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. About 1,584 persons including 439 women were engaged in sanitary works and services. With the all round progress of the District in recent years the number of workers in these occupations has registered a phenomenal rise.

**Domestic Services:—**Gardeners, cooks, household servants, car drivers, etc., are classified as domestic servants. In 1951 the number of domestic servants employed in the District was 6,724 which included 2,378 women. This works out at an average of one servant for every 309 persons. Generally the domestic servants are paid very low wages ; but the evil of it is to some extent mitigated by the provision of food and shelter in almost all cases. Sometime domestic servants are employed in more than one household as part time workers by which system they are in a position to clear more wages. Cooks and car drivers are generally paid more than the

other servants. Cooks are given, in addition to their monthly salary, free food and shelter. In 1951, there were 121 private motor drivers, 2,108 male and 1,065 female cooks, 169 male and 97 female gardeners and 1,948 male and 1,216 female domestic servants in the District.

*Personal Services:*—Personal Services include the barbers, tailors, washerman, etc.

*Barbers:*—The presence of barbers is considered necessary in Hindu homes on important religious occasions like marriages, funerals, etc. He is expected to perform certain ceremonial duties on such occasions. Temples in the District employ them to perform *peria-melam* (nadaswaram) or the temple band during the daily prayer schedules and on special festival occasions. They are usually paid in kind or in certain places they are given temple lands as grants for their services. Some of them, who are well versed in nadhaswaram, have taken to nadhaswaram playing as their profession. They give nadhaswaram performances during marriages, festivals and in special music programmes.

Barber women in villages have been engaged as midwives from very early times. They still carry on this service and are of invaluable help to the poor in places where no provision for immediate medical treatment is available. In the urban areas the barbers have set up attractive barber shops which they christen as "Hair dressing saloons". Each saloon finds employment for more than two or three persons. Sometimes, the members of a family jointly run these saloons. Besides these saloons, there are also road-side barbers who attend on the impecunious. Barbers also serve their clients in their houses and in such cases the wages are higher than in the saloons. According to the Census of 1951 there were 2,889 barbers in the District. Of these 211 were employers who own barber shops and they employed under them 437 barbers on wage basis. There were also 2,346 independents.

*Washermen:*—The washerman, like the barber has to perform important ceremonial duties in the Hindu household on occasions like the birth of a child, marriage, death, etc. But foremost of his duties is to serve the needs of the villages in washing their clothes. In villages the washerman is generally paid in kind or sometimes, he is given a piece of village common land for the maintenance of himself and the members of his family. Washerman is generally assisted by his wife and children and relatives. Some of the washermen set up laundries in the urban areas to serve the requirements of the people. Washermen colonies exist near by towns. Washermen from these colonies visit the households in town and undertake collection of soiled cloth and delivery of washed cloths. The number of washermen in the District in 1951 was 6,622 including 1,466 women. Of these, 315 were employers owning laundries. They employed under them 852 washermen on wage basis. About 5,455 persons were engaged as independent workers. In important



towns like Ramanathapuram, Srivilliputtur, Devakottai, Sivaganga and other places, the washermen have their own associations and through them they have set up uniform rates for washing clothes. These associations also settle disputes over wages of the employees.

*Tailors.*—In 1951 the number of tailors in the District was 1,783. Of this, 54 were women. The tailors are generally found in the urban areas. They are engaged in making shirts, trousers, coats, etc., and dresses for the women. They are sometimes assisted by the members of their family. In important towns of the District, tailoring firms have been established in recent years and the owners of such firms employ a number of tailors on daily or monthly wages. The charges for making clothes vary from place to place and according to the skill of the tailors. There are expert tailors who charge high wages. On an average, tailors earn about Rs. 60 per month.

*Other Occupations.*—In 1951, arts, literature and journalism found employment for about 276 persons. The Religious, Charitable and Welfare Services employed about 2,409 persons of whom 207 were women. 1,229 persons were employed under 47 major institutions, while there were 1,133 independent workers in this field. In the legal and business services, there were 1,062 persons of whom 113 were employers and 604 were employees and 345 were independent workers. A large number of persons are now engaged in running hotels and restaurants in the District. In 1951, about 5,952 persons were engaged in this service; when 824 employers employed under them 2,566 persons, while 2,562 persons were self employed persons. Recreation Service is also another important occupation in which a number of persons are employed. According to the 1951 Census, there were 596 persons engaged in recreation services of whom 28 were women. 34 employers in the recreation field employed under them 312 persons while 350 were independent workers.

*Other Miscellaneous Occupations.*—There are also a large number of other miscellaneous occupations in the District, which are not dealt with earlier. A number of persons particularly women, earn their livelihood by selling vegetables from door to door. Some of them also own petty shops attached to their huts. The women of the fishermen's households eke out a living by selling in the nearby towns, the daily catch of their men folk. There are also hawkers who go about selling fruits and fancy goods like toys, glass bangles, etc. The hand-cart pullers and coolies in the market form an important group of the miscellaneous workers. Casual labourers who form the bulk of this group are unskilled workers and are not assured of any permanent work or steady income. The following tables give the approximate number of persons employed in miscellaneous occupations, according to the 1951 and 1961 Census.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1951 Census Hand Book—Ramanathapuram District (1953) and 1961 Census Hand Book—Ramanathapuram District, 1965.

1931 Census.

Serial number and Occupations.

(1)

|   | Males. |       | Females. |     | Employers. |       | Employees. |       | Independent Workers. |      |
|---|--------|-------|----------|-----|------------|-------|------------|-------|----------------------|------|
|   | (2)    | (3)   | (4)      | (5) | (6)        | (7)   | (8)        | (9)   | (10)                 | (11) |
| 1 Medical and Other Health Services .. ..                     | 1,510  | 700   | 79       | 13  | 667        | 493   | 764        | 194   |                      |      |
| 2 Educational Services and Research .. ..                     | 4,534  | 1,313 | 57       | 11  | 3,820      | 1,111 | 657        | 191   |                      |      |
| 3 Police (Other than Village Watchmen) .. ..                  | 1,284  | ..    | ..       | ..  | 1,284      | ..    | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 4 Village Officers and Servants (including Village Watchmen). | 1,083  | ..    | ..       | ..  | 1,083      | ..    | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 5 Employees of Municipalities and Local Boards ..             | 1,240  | 129   | ..       | ..  | 1,240      | 129   | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 6 Employees of the State Government .. ..                     | 1,550  | 177   | ..       | ..  | 1,550      | 177   | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 7 Employees of the Union Government .. ..                     | 552    | 22    | ..       | ..  | 552        | 22    | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 8 Domestic Servants .. ..                                     | 4,346  | 2,378 | ..       | ..  | 4,346      | 2,378 | ..         | ..    |                      |      |
| 9 Barbers and beauty shops .. ..                              | 2,889  | 105   | 203      | 8   | 428        | 9     | 2,258      | 88    |                      |      |
| 10 Laundries and Laundry Services .. ..                       | 5,156  | 1,466 | 286      | 29  | 726        | 126   | 4,144      | 1,311 |                      |      |
| 11 Hotels, restaurants and eating houses .. ..                | 4,821  | 1,191 | 763      | 61  | 2,342      | 264   | 1,756      | 806   |                      |      |
| 12 Recreation Services .. ..                                  | 568    | 28    | 33       | 1   | 201        | 11    | 334        | 16    |                      |      |
| 13 Legal and Business Services .. ..                          | 1,037  | 25    | 113      | ..  | 586        | 18    | 338        | 7     |                      |      |
| 14 Arts, Literature and Journalism .. ..                      | 276    | 1     | 10       | ..  | 57         | ..    | 208        | 1     |                      |      |
| 15 Religious, Charitable and Welfare Services .. ..           | 2,202  | 207   | 42       | 5   | 1,143      | 86    | 1,017      | 116   |                      |      |
| 16 Transports and Communication .. ..                         | 7,237  | 211   | 580      | 1   | 4,686      | 80    | 1,971      | 139   |                      |      |
| 17 Services Otherwise unclassified .. ..                      | 13,618 | 7,481 | 282      | 206 | 13,294     | 2,356 | 10,042     | 4,919 |                      |      |

## 1961 Census.

| Serial<br>number. | Indus-<br>trial<br>code<br>number. | Description.   | Total. |          | Employers. |          | Employees. |          | Independent<br>workers. |          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
|                   |                                    |  | Males. | Females. | Males.     | Females. | Males.     | Females. | Males.                  | Females. |
| (1)               | (2)                                | (3)  | (4)    | (5)      | (6)        | (7)      | (8)        | (9)      | (10)                    | (11)     |
| 1.                | 82                                 | Medical and Health Services ..   | 2,197  | 971      | 32         | 9        | 1,313      | 798      | 802                     | 164      |
| 2.                | 81                                 | Educational and Scientific Services ..   | 9,894  | 4,058    | 30         | 2        | 9,816      | 4,049    | 47                      | 7        |
| 3.                | 803                                | Public service in Police ..  | 1,845  | 8        | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 4.                | 104                                | Village Officials ..   | 2,998  | 65       | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| (O.C.)            |                                    |  |        |          |            |          |            |          |                         |          |
| 5.                | 805                                | Public Service in administrative<br>departments and offices of quasi-<br>Government Organisation, Munici-<br>palities, local boards, etc.                  | 1,696  | 42       | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 6.                | 809                                | Public services in administrative<br>departments and offices of State<br>Governments.  | 6,233  | 84       | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 7.                | 804                                | Public service in administrative<br>departments and offices of Central<br>Government.  | 1,291  | 6        | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 8.                | 880                                | Services rendered to house holds such<br>as those by domestic servants,<br>cooks etc.  | 2,351  | 2,123    | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 9.                | 884                                | Hair dressing, other services rendered<br>by organisation and individuals<br>such as those by barber, hair-dressing<br>saloon and beauty shops.            | 3,868  | 1        | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |
| 10.               | 883                                | Laundry services rendered by organi-<br>sations and individuals, this includes<br>all types of cleaning, dyeing, bleach-<br>ing and dry cleaning services. | 7,936  | 6,053    | ..         | ..       | ..         | ..       | ..                      | ..       |

|       |     |  |       |       |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|-----|--|-------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 11.   | 882 | Services rendered by hotels, boarding houses, eating houses, cafes, restaurants and similar other organisations to provide lodging and boarding facilities.                          | 9,203 | 1,106 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 12.   | 87  | Recreation Services .. .. .  | 1,260 | 22    | 46 | 1  | 6  | 9  | 12 |
| (a)   | 870 | Production of motion picture and allied services such as processing editing, etc.  | 51    | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| (b)   | 871 | Recreation services rendered by cinema houses by exhibition of motion pictures.  | 511   | 4     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| (c)   | 872 | Recreation services rendered by organisations and individuals such as those of theatres, opera companies, ballet and dancing parties, musicians, exhibitions, circus, carnivals etc. | 665   | 17    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| .     | .   | indoor and outdoor sports by organisations and individuals including horse, motor, etc., racing.   | 11    | 1     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 12-I. | 84  | Legal services .. .. .   | 432   | ..    | 7  | .. | 52 | .. | .. |
| (a)   | 840 | Legal services rendered by barrister, advocates, solicitor, mukteer, pleader mukurie, munshi   | 259   | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| (b)   | 841 | Matrimonial services rendered by organisations and individuals.  | 173   | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |



## CHAPTER IX.

### ECONOMIC TRENDS.

#### Economic Conditions in Early Times.

In the days of the early Tamil kings of the *Sangam* period, the Ramanathapuram District formed part of the Pandyan kingdom. The early Tamil kings, viz., the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas frequently engaged with each other in warfare and occasionally one of them became powerful and subjugated the rest. During those periods, every dynasty when it attained supermacy, drew to itself all the wealth of the surrounding provinces and adorned its capital with magnificent buildings and temples. The one lasting monument to the early prosperity of the Ramanathapuram region and to the religious zeal of its early kings is the famous temple at Rameswaram. It is one of the most venerated Hindu shrines in the country and according to tradition was founded by Lord Rama himself. For centuries, there has been a regular flow of pilgrims to the temple. Its very association with the mythological happenings in the *Ramayana* makes this District a very hallowed part of the country.

The District is also rich in its human wealth. In early times this region was inhabited by a sturdy race of people known as Maravars. Tradition has it that the ancestors of this race of people assisted Lord Rama in the conquest of Ravana. Apart from this mythological association, the valiant Maravars were closely associated with the ruling chieftains of Ramanathapuram, the Sethupathis and they were also associated in the early military campaigns of the Nayaks of Madurai. By and large they were employed as mercenary soldiers by the warring chieftains and rulers. With the decline of the Pandian hegemony and later on with disintegration of the Nayak Empire and the curbing of the powers of the ruling chieftains by the advancing tide of the British Empire, these warring classes could not find any fruitful occupation in military pursuits and therefore turned to be a discontented and troublesome group. This drove them on to activities forbidden by any set of civilised laws. In early times these Maravars were the cause of much unrest and insecurity of personal property in the region. However, it must be noted that during the early period, the Maravar forces maintained law and order in the region and contributed to better agriculture, better irrigation and general economic prosperity.

Agriculture has been traditionally the predominant occupation of the people of the region. The District abounds in reservoirs, called *Eeries*, *Kummis* and *Yendels*. The District has been rightly called the Lake District of the State. Several of the large reservoirs are supplied by channels from rivers, while others of smaller dimensions are filled by rains.

The periodical rains set in about the months of October and November and the great bulk of the rain water are confined by the embarkment of the lakes. If there is a general drought, the ryots dig small pits in the beds of the reservoirs and from those sources irrigate their lands. The innumerable lakes that dotted the whole region accounted for its early agricultural prosperity and in later years they fell into neglect and disrepair for want of a regular system of inspection. So in later periods the agriculture of the region was not prosperous. This decline of agriculture further accentuated the lawlessness and depredatory activities in the region.

The Ramanathapuram District has distinguished itself quite early as a region of flourishing trade and commerce. Paramagudi was the centre of thriving cotton textile manufacture, where printed cloths, chintzes, silks, silk carpets and innumerable other fine fabrics were manufactured and exported. Kilakkarai was the centre for the manufacture of fine cloths and muslins. Longcloths of good quality were manufactured at a number of places like Kamudi, Abiramam, Aruppukkottai, Palayapatti, Yekundi, Kunnakulam, Chitrakottai and Tondi. Coarse cotton textiles commonly worn by the people of the region were woven in almost every village of the region.

Salt was another important commodity manufactured in the neighbourhood of coastal towns and villages. The process of manufacture of salt prevalent in the region was by the evaporation of sea water by the heat of the sun and the collection of fine crystals of salt that were formed on the surface. Chank fishing was also an important occupation of the people. The chank fishing operations usually commenced on the Eastern Coast in April and continued till the month of September. In the South Coast, it began in October and continued till March. The chank fishes of the Eastern Coast were considered superior to that of the South Coast. Apart from chank fishing, coastal fishing also brought large revenues to the Ramanathapuram Zamin. The important ports of the region were Kilakkarai, Devipattinam and Pamban. In those centres there were settlement of an active and enterprising race called Lubbais, who possessed considerable wealth. They were engaged in maritime trade. The major exports from those ports were, chanks to Bengal, and salt, salt fish, tobacco, cotton cloth, skins and paddy to Ceylon. The imports generally consists of wollen cloths, sugar candy, spices and teak wood.

The prosperity of the country was really shaken by the invasion of Malik Kafur, the General under Ala-ud-din-Khilji. Malik Kafur's invasion spread terror and destruction in the entire Pandyan territory from Madurai to Rameswaram and wherever he went his army looted and destroyed the Hindu shrines and spoiled its architectural splendour and forcibly converted a number of people to Islam. Thus the prosperity of the District in the opening years of the 14th century, declined. The Muslim invasion, however, did not

very much affect the administration of the Marava country. It continued to be ruled by the hereditary chieftains. The difficulties presented by the Muslim attack was gradually overcome and organised way of life was once again restored by the beginning of the 15th Century.

After the fall of the Madurai Sultanate, the expanding Vijayanagar Empire brought this region under its protective wings. Once again peace and prosperity were ensured and the promotion of the religious ideals and activities, which the earlier Pandyan rulers had cherished was reviewed. The Vijayanagar administration divided the country into principalities of feudal tenure, each feudatory managing his own region according to his will and pleasure and only rendering tribute of military services to the Vijayanagar ruler. This was the beginning of the Poligar system. The far sightedness of the Vijayanagar administration in settling with the chieftains and the establishment of the Poligar system accounted for the stability of the Nayak rule of Madurai and the general prosperity all around. The seed of unsettlement was, however, once again sown by the rise of the Nawab of Carnatic. During this period there was a succession of weak kings to the Nayak throne and their regime finally came to an end by about the middle of the 18th Century. The Nawab brought under his sway the whole of the kingdom of the Nayak of Madurai.

The East India Company which always played the role of advisers and care-takers of the Nawab of Carnatic, helped the Nawab in all his campaigns. During the brief period of administration by the Nawab, the country once again relapsed into a state of poverty and insecurity. The Nawab's administrators were inexperienced and some of them like Yusuf Khan were full of personal ambition and corrupt motives. The rates of land revenue assessment were steadily raised during this period and the demand for rent varied every year. The request of the peasants for rent reduction were not attended to.

*Prices and Wages:*—Prices of commodities appear to have varied greatly in different parts of the country in early times due to difficulty of communication and the general state of insecurity. Generally in the coastal districts which carried on foreign trade, prices were high. In the districts in the interior prices were exceedingly low. From the letter of a Jesuit Missionary in 1713, we learn that in the Ramanathapuram country 8 *marakals* of excellent husked rice could be purchased for one *fanam* and this rate has been computed to be equivalent to 512 seers (of 80 tolas) for a rupee<sup>1</sup>.

No reliable information is available regarding the wages of agricultural and other labourers in early times. Wages appear to have been generally paid in kind (grains). A considerable portion

<sup>1</sup> Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, S., Memorandum on the progress of the Madras Presidency during the last 40 years of British Administration, 1893—Page 57.



of the wages also appears to have been disbursed in the shape of perquisites or other advantages such as huts and small allotments of land for cultivation, free of rent, etc., and these additional allowances appear to have been adjusted from time to time with reference to the demand for labour, the prices of foodgrains, the efficiency of labourers, the constancy of employment, etc.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

The District as constituted at present was formed only in the year 1910. Earlier to the formation of the District, the eastern region of the District was mainly covered by two Zamins of Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai. The claims of the Nawab of Carnatic to control this region was resisted by the Zamindars of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga. The English despatched a force from Tiruchirapalli under General Joseph Smith. Ramanathapuram was attacked and captured by the General on the 25th June 1772 and the ruling family was imprisoned and taken to Tiruchirapalli. Later in 1780, when wars with Hyder Ali broke out, Muthuramalinga Thevar, the ruler of Ramanathapuram, was reinstated as a dependant of the Nawab of Carnatic. At this juncture the Nawab's revenues were assigned to the East India Company as security for the expenses of their campaigns on behalf of the Nawab. In the subsequent period there was misrule and the Company was obliged to send military forces into the Ramanathapuram region to collect the *peshkash* due to it. In 1795, the Rajah was deposed.

The Zamin of Sivaganga also resisted for a long time the overtures of the East India Company to ally with it and finally it was able to annex this region by inflicting a crushing defeat on the ruling Marudu Brothers who were at the helm of affairs in 1801. In the year 1801 the whole of the Carnatic was made over by the Nawab to the British and from then on the region was directly under their over-all control. Though this region was part of the British-controlled Province of Madras, it did not derive much of the advantages derived by the other districts of the Province as it was mainly a zamindari tract. The applying backwardness of its roads and irrigation system was in large measure due to the laxity of administration of the region by the zamindari.

Hodgeson<sup>1</sup> who surveyed the Province of Tirunelveli in 1807, observing on the economic conditions of the period has remarked that the prosperity of the country will be materially promoted and the revenue gradually augmented not by increase in assessment but by the increase in cultivation arising out of the growing prosperity of the people. On the state of agriculture during the period, Hodgeson has observed that the cause of vast areas of lands lying waste was in part due to want of stock and capital and in part for want of sufficient quantity of water<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Hodgeson J : Report on the Province of Tinnevely, 1807, page 25.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

As already seen at the beginning of the 19th Century, the region was controlled by Poligar chieftains, who ruled under the Nawab of Carnatic. The Poligars and their sycophants resented the rise of the British rule. The Poligars and Zamindars maintained an army numbering 2,000 to 3,000 and more and with the aid of this force they committed great excesses. Rapine and incendiarism constituted a feature of the times. Villages were given impunity from the attacks by the payment of significant sums as indemnities. The depredations of Zamindars, Poligars and other free-booters continued for several years after the British conquest. In general, the country was in a turbulent state and a sense of general insecurity prevailed.

As a result of the general insecurity, the agricultural classes were not fixed in their occupation. They were always expecting some attack or other and therefore they did not want to do all their best on the land for fear that they may not be left free to enjoy the fruits of their labour and investment. Thus the trade of the region also dwindled considerably.

During this period, trade and industry was also generally restricted. The disturbed state of the country and the financial stringency owing to expenditure on wars, etc., had lead to a considerable decline of industry. Madras was the only place which had a fairly extensive trade by sea ; and in all other places, inland trade was greatly controlled by the levy of duties. Communications were entirely undeveloped and wheeled traffic was practically unknown outside a few towns. Goods were transported by animals. Even such roads as existed could not be freely used owing to the prevalence of the general insecurity. Such were the conditions at the beginning of the 19th Century<sup>1</sup>.

*Prices:*—Fluctuations in the prices of food grains was a marked feature during the first half of the century. These variations were heightened by fluctuations in harvest and by the lack of transport facilities for the movement of produce. Though short period fluctuations in prices were caused by temporary shortages and mal-distribution of food grains, over a long period of 50 years from 1801 to 1850 the prices of foodgrains showed unmistakable tendency for a decline. In the Madras Presidency in 1801-1802 the average price of paddy I sort was Rs. 109 per Madras Garce (a Garce 3,200 measures); it declined by various stages to Rs. 77 in 1850-51. The average price of paddy II sort started from Rs. 96 per Madras Garce in 1801-1802 and by slow degrees it declined to Rs. 66 in 1850-51. The fall was almost steady except for a few sudden spurts during famine years like 1806, 1812, 1824, 1825 and 1833<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Sarada Raju, A., *Economic conditions in the Madras Presidency*, (1800-50) 1941, Pages 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Pages 227-232.

The data below which show the prices of second sort rice in the neighbouring District of Tirunelveli in terms of *seers* (of 80 *tolas*) per rupee during the period 1809 to 1853 (average of quinquennial periods excluding famine years) will also go to illustrate the trend of decline in prices of foodgrains during the first half of the nineteenth Century.

| <i>Period.</i>                |    |    |    |    | <i>Price.</i>  |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|--|
| <i>Average of five years.</i> |    |    |    |    | <i>Seers per rupee<br/>(average for quinquennial periods.)</i> |
| 1809 to 1813                  | —  | .. | .. | .. | 31.4   |
| 1819 to 1823                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25.7   |
| 1828 to 1832                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23.4   |
| 1849 to 1853                  | —  | .. | .. | .. | 23.1   |

The steady decline in prices was brought about both by monetary and non-monetary factors. Towards the end of the eighteenth century export of textiles resulted in a flow of bullion from abroad and also in sizeable investment activities by the Company. These amounts entered into circulation and tended to keep the prices high. With the decline of the textile trade from the early years of the 19th Century, the amount of money in circulation declined and in turn has hastened the fall of prices. Payments due to the Presidency were made through bills rather than in bullion, contrary to the practice obtaining in the earlier period. Besides, there was an increasing flow of bullion and treasures due to mounting Home Charges and remittances of private fortunes accumulated by the "Nabobs of Madras" who were mostly the Company's servants. This monetary stringency occasioned by the outflow of bullion and the resultant fall of prices was further aggravated by the Currency Act of 1835. As a result of the Act, gold was demonetized and an uniformity of currency in circulation was brought about by discarding several local currencies. All these measures brought about a contraction of money in circulation and a fall of prices. There were also other non-monetary causes which hastened the fall of prices. The decay of Zamindars and chieftains who spent lavishly caused a shortage in the demand for goods. The disbandment of troops and the retainers formerly maintained by the Poligar chieftains also resulted in a general curtailment of purchasing power and fall in the demand for goods and provisions. The decline of the handloom industry and the consequent unemployment of weavers caused a slump in the demand for goods. The steady increase in the import of Arakan rice, caused a general fall in the prices of foodgrains.

The slump in the prices, promoted a vicious circle of depression in agriculture and industry<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Sarada Raju, A., op. cit. page 244.

*Wages and standard of living*:—Agricultural workers were of two categories : those who were engaged for the year and those who performed occasional labour during the busy seasons like harvesting and transplanting when extra hands were required. While a casual labourer was free to transfer his services to any master, the yearly labourer could leave his master only on the discharge of all debts and advances. Whenever a yearly labourer left his old master the new master discharged all his debts. Women were largely employed in less strenuous agricultural pursuits like weeding and transplanting. The wages paid to the workers amounted to a monthly allowance of grain and a periodical supply of small quantities of oil and condiments just sufficient for the bare existence of the worker and his family, two or three rupees a year and in addition two pieces of cloth. Trifling presents were given on the occasion of festivals and ceremonies. Wages in villages situated near towns were a little higher than in the interior. Women everywhere were paid considerably less than men, usually half and sometimes two-thirds <sup>1</sup>.

The standard of living, of the bulk of the people was very simple and low. Foreign administrators have borne testimony to the poor living conditions of the working classes. According to them, they lived in low mud houses and eked out a subsistence standard of living. Rice was generally consumed by richer sections of the people; most of the labourers and ryots consumed grains such as *ragi*, *cholam* and *cumbu*. The richer class consumed vegetables, milk, curd, pulses and ghee. The poorer sections had generally nothing to do with spices. They used salt, pickles and onions by way of spices. Vegetables were used only if they could obtain them <sup>2</sup>.

The population could be broadly divided into two classes, the well-to-do and the others. About one in thousand of the people who could be called the very wealthy were not very wealthy even according to the then existing standards. The wealthiest of them owned possessions worth of Rs. 350 which was very insignificant in those days. But there were a select few like Zamindars and *Dubashis*, whose wealth and standard of living was really high. These richer classes had large families, maintaining servants and conveyances. They incurred expenses of clothing on festive occasions, on ceremonies and feasts; and also on items of luxury such as betel leaves and nuts <sup>3</sup>.

Before concluding this section, a passing reference may be made to the western half of the District which at present mainly comprises of the taluks of Srivilliputtur and Sattur. They were then part of the Tirunelveli District. They were mainly ryotwari tracts and as

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<sup>1</sup> Sarada Raju, A., op cit., page 277—287.

<sup>2</sup> *pagu* Ibid, 281.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 277.

such were able to absorb the benefits of direct administration by the British. This region had the added advantage of a stable system of Government to enforce law and order and the collection of equitable revenues. This generally promoted the standard of living of the people of this area. Later on, this area was integrated with the Ramanathapuram District on its constitution in 1910. Therefore one naturally finds the eastern and western halves of of the District at different stages of economic development.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

With the introduction of the British rule in India and with the attainment of conditions of greater security of life and property there was a sharp rise in land prices. With the revival of security for the cultivators, the productivity of land increased and with the general rise in productivity, the prosperity of the artisan classes also revived. The artisans such as carpenters, bricklayers and smiths found enough work for them and an increasing demand for them brought about a general rise in their wages, nearly to three times the wages that were obtaining at the beginning of the 19th century. This recorded that persons who were paid three annas a day at the beginning of the century, were able to earn as much as 8 to 10 annas. Most of these artisans who were able to earn money by hard labour were in a position to save enough to purchase lands and live comfortably.

There was an all-round increase in the population and in the extent of area under cultivation. A new educated and well-to-do class developed. Many well-to-do people preferred investment in lands to hoarding or lending at high rates of interest. Thus an enlightened class was fast investing in landed property side by side with the poor artisan classes who also found land a secure source of income. This caused general rise in the value of the land, though the yield at times was deficient. During this period the agricultural classes may be classified into three groups ; the landowners who did not cultivate land but only collected rents, those agriculturists who not only cultivated their own lands but also took lands from others on lease and cultivators who had no lands of their own but only cultivated the lands of others on different terms of lease. Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar<sup>1</sup> has recorded that the agriculturists covered by the second and third classes had improved their status by yearly fresh acquisition of land and by converting waste lands into cultivable ones. In the case of the first class, with the exception of a small percentage who were engaged in trade, the major portion of those falling under this class were by degrees growing poorer and poorer by selling or mortgaging their property. Though this class might give the general impression that the condition of the agricultural classes was going

<sup>1</sup> Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, S., op. cit.—Appendix pages CCXIX—CCXXI.

down, the general feeling of the agricultural classes was one of satisfaction with their lot. The people were happy in the safety they enjoyed as a result of the stable government in the Country. Property had been rendered more secure. There was nothing of that dread of life or of the prospect of losing property, which placed the ryot in eternal anxiety in the absence of an organised form of government.

Notwithstanding the safe and peaceful situation of the Country, there had been some deterioration among the agricultural classes. The tendencies which were responsible for bringing down the general prosperity of the agriculturists during this period may be enumerated as follows :—

Heavy marriage expenses.

Factionous spirit and consequent expensive litigation.

The neglect of the ryots to give any sort of rest to the cultivable lands, and

The lack of application of manure to the lands which consequently brought about low yields.

*Decline of Industries:*—As regards other industries, some showed improvement, some were stationary and others showed decline. The mason, the carpenter, the blacksmith and the brassmith were during this period more prosperous than before. The potter had remained in the same position as 25 or 30 years ago. It was in the case of the weaver that one found almost complete collapse. The weaver stood helpless before the gigantic array of machines and machine-made cloths from Manchester.

Native industrial arts generally declined. They were in times gone by held in deservedly high esteem and every encouragement was given to the proprietors by the former rulers of the Country. With the beginning of British rule, and the importation of machinery, the native industrial arts received a death-blow.

*General development of the country:*—The introduction of the railways, the improved roads and easy communications, the establishment of the village post-offices, the increased demand and supply had all tended to increase every class of trade from the petty retail sales in the streets and villages to whole-sale commerce. The variety of things bought and sold during this period, and their quality and quantity compared with those found in the markets some twenty years earlier showed a great deal of advance. A larger number of people were employed in these trades. Persons of every caste took up the trade suitable to their means and ability. The first class of agricultural population noted earlier were seen here and there using their time and money to their advantage in trading. Those of the second and third classes, too, carried on petty inland trades during the time they were free from their work on their lands. Persons of other ancestral professions had also cast off their prejudices, and freely took up trading if they found it more convenient and paying than those of their fore-fathers.

**Manufacture and handicraft:**—Here again the quality and the quantity of the work turned out, and the variety of such work done during the period, were far higher than what they were during the last generation. The caste, which in the majority of cases among the natives, distinguished the profession, is fading away. It is needless here to enumerate the several branches of industry that were improved, and that were newly started. The artisans and manufacturers successfully imitated the works of the western nations and produced the necessary articles nearly equal in quality and durability and also sold them much cheaper.

In conclusion, it may safely be stated that the state of the country was much better than what it was at the beginning of the nineteenth century in every respect—agriculture, manufacture, and commerce. The tillers of the soil, the artisans, the manufacturers, and the traders, petty and wholesale, were as shown above, getting strengthened day after day. The working classes were also much better off than what they were during the last generation<sup>1</sup>.

**Prices:**—The following table which shows the average prices of rice II sort, in terms of seers of 0.80 tolas per rupee during the period 1849 to 1888 (average for quinquennial periods excluding famine years) in the Madras Presidency may illustrate the general trend of prices of foodgrains during the second half of the nineteenth century in the District.

|   | Average of five years.              |                  |                  |                        |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
|   | 1849 to<br>1853.                    | 1861 to<br>1865. | 1870 to<br>1874. | 1883-84 to<br>1887-88. |
| (1)   | (2)                                 | (3)              | (4)              | (5)                    |
|   | (In seers of 0.80 tolas per rupee). |                  |                  |                        |
| Average for the Presidency .. ..  | 34.9                                | 13.2             | 16.1             | 14.9                   |
| Index numbers representing average prices taking the average for the years. | 100                                 | 264              | 216              | 213                    |

The table clearly brings out the fact that prices rose rapidly after 1853 till they reached their culmination in the five years ending 1865, when they were nearly two and a half times what they were prior to 1853. Among the causes of this sudden rise were the following: the discoveries of gold in America and in Australia in 1848 led to a large influx of gold into Europe raising prices and creating a demand for Indian products. The Crimean War during the period also led to the development of trade of India in jute and oil seeds. The Indian Mutiny also necessitated large remittances in silver for expenditure in India, and the construction of public works, especially railways, had also the same effect. The American War and the consequent famine in England developed an enormous trade in the

<sup>1</sup> Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, S., op. cit.—Appendix P.P.CCXII—C.CXXV.

somewhat hitherto despised Indian cotton. Though after 1870, prices fell by about 20 per cent from the level they had attained in 1865, they were nevertheless twice as high as in 1853.

*Wages:*—Generally for agricultural labourers, the wages were given in money, or in kind or in food and clothing with a small cash payment at the end of the year. The rise in the price of foodgrains and other necessities of life, the steady increasing demand for work, the development of trade, etc., had all undoubtedly enhanced the rate of wages, not only for the skilled, but also for the unskilled labourer, to a considerable extent. The average rate of wage in 1883–84 for unskilled labour in the towns in the neighbouring District of Tirunelveli was annas 2–10 per day and in villages it was annas 2–4 per day. As regards skilled labour, around 1883, the rate of value of labour per day of brick layers was between annas 8 and annas 12 ; that of carpenters was between annas 6 and annas 12 and of the smiths it was between annas 7 and annas 12 <sup>1</sup>.

In the later half of the 19th Century there was a phenomenal development of tea plantations in Ceylon. Labourers were attracted to the plantations in large numbers from the region of the Ramanathapuram District. They were recruited under an indentured system. This had released certain peculiar economic tendencies in the region. Many able bodied men migrated to Ceylon. The labourers in the region of the District looked more towards opportunities to move to Ceylon than towards settling down in agricultural pursuits in the region. This tendency to some extent had a depressing effect on the internal economy of the region especially in the sectors of agriculture and handicrafts.

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<sup>1</sup> Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, S., Op. cit, pages CCVII and CXCV to CC in the Appendices.



## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN RECENT YEARS.

*Prices:*—Generally speaking, the general price trends in the District are the same as those relating to the State as a whole. The following table gives a general picture of price fluctuations in the State from the year 1939 onwards <sup>1</sup>.

## INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE STATE.

| <i>Year.</i>           | <i>Food Grains.</i> | <i>Commercial products.</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1)                    | (2)                 | (3)                         |
| Base : on 21st August— |                     |                             |
| 1939                   | 100                 | 100                         |
| 1940                   | 113                 | 105                         |
| 1941                   | 129                 | 164                         |
| 1942                   | 165                 | 145                         |
| 1943                   | 250                 | 249                         |
| 1944                   | 246                 | 251                         |
| 1945                   | 246                 | 274                         |
| 1946                   | 253                 | 365                         |
| 1947                   | 282                 | 407                         |
| 1948                   | 375                 | 445                         |
| 1949                   | 378                 | 534                         |
| 1950                   | 366                 | 637                         |
| 1951                   | 375                 | 673                         |
| 1952                   | 407                 | 507                         |
| 1953                   | 436                 | 566                         |
| 1954                   | 442                 | 446                         |
| 1955                   | 377                 | 414                         |
| 1956                   | 460                 | 479                         |
| 1957                   | 494                 | 491                         |
| 1958                   | 515                 | 491                         |
| 1959                   | 514                 | 549                         |
| 1960                   | 582                 | 608                         |
| 1961                   | 602                 | 630                         |
| 1962                   | 587                 | 623                         |
| 1963                   | 565                 | 672                         |
| 1964                   | 676                 | 755                         |
| 1965                   | 694                 | 804                         |
| 1966                   | 702                 | 1080                        |
| 1967                   | 732                 | 1146                        |
| 1968                   | 786                 | 1098                        |
| 1969                   | 842                 | 1245                        |
| 1970                   | 947                 | 1372                        |

Internal and external factors have generally speaking, influenced the price movements in the State. With the outbreak of the World War II in August 1939, Prices showed tendencies to rise. In the post-war years, the devaluation of the Rupee in September 1949 and the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June 1950 caused further rise in the price level. After the Korean truce proposals in 1951, a downward trend in the wholesale prices of commercial products was noticed from the year 1952, which continued up to 1955, there was a steep fall in the prices of food-grains, mainly as a result of good

<sup>1</sup> Source : Director of Statistics, Madras.

seasonal conditions. However, by 1956, the wholesale prices of food-grains and commercial products began to show an upward trend once again. The cause of this upward movement in the wholesale prices of commodities in recent years may generally be attributed to the inflationary conditions prevailing in the country as a consequence of the extensive economic development brought about by the Five-Year Plans.

The following table gives the average annual retail prices of important foodgrains in the District in recent years :—

AVERAGE ANNUAL RETAIL PRICES OF IMPORTANT FOODGRAINS IN THE DISTRICT

(Prices in rupees per quintal of 100 kg.).

| Year.      | Rice.  | Cholam. | Cumbu. | Ragi. | Horse-gram. | Salt. |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|-------------|-------|
| (1)        | (2)    | (3)     | (4)    | (5)   | (6)         | (7)   |
| 1938-39 .. | 10.69  | 8.40    | 7.02   | 6.51  | 8.23        | 6.16  |
| 1939-40 .. | 11.58  | 7.53    | 8.41   | 7.61  | 8.95        | 6.22  |
| 1940-41 .. | 12.46  | 7.31    | 8.23   | 6.91  | 8.33        | 6.70  |
| 1941-42 .. | 14.58  | 11.44   | 9.57   | 8.44  | 8.31        | 6.86  |
| 1942-43 .. | 28.43  | 17.42   | 15.86  | 14.42 | 14.07       | 7.64  |
| 1943-44 .. | 27.25  | 19.29   | 21.78  | 21.30 | 22.91       | 9.46  |
| 1944-45 .. | 27.89  | 18.49   | 21.86  | 20.90 | 23.55       | 9.73  |
| 1945-46 .. | 29.77  | 16.80   | 19.59  | 20.34 | 27.73       | 7.90  |
| 1946-47 .. | 29.55  | 18.92   | 20.31  | 18.25 | 32.80       | 8.41  |
| 1947-48 .. | 51.82  | 27.57   | 39.09  | 36.36 | 36.73       | 7.31  |
| 1948-49 .. | 64.98  | 44.24   | 50.77  | 46.19 | 39.65       | 5.76  |
| 1949-50 .. | 42.28  | 30.23   | 27.06  | 24.68 | 35.96       | 4.53  |
| 1950-51 .. | 51.82  | 33.17   | 25.99  | 30.41 | 46.70       | 4.10  |
| 1951-52 .. | 54.71  | 36.33   | ..     | ..    | 43.86       | 4.53  |
| 1952-53 .. | 51.85  | 34.32   | ..     | ..    | 40.70       | 4.45  |
| 1953-54 .. | 51.61  | 40.14   | ..     | ..    | 35.05       | 4.34  |
| 1954-55 .. | 53.78  | 33.12   | 27.06  | 25.62 | 23.87       | 4.45  |
| 1955-56 .. | 42.98  | 25.80   | 26.42  | 24.41 | 29.58       | 4.26  |
| 1956-57 .. | 53.05  | 43.65   | 36.23  | 33.44 | 35.07       | 4.23  |
| 1957-58 .. | 60.63  | 33.73   | 33.76  | 32.02 | 31.03       | 4.07  |
| 1958-59 .. | 64.14  | 38.96   | 34.75  | 32.82 | 30.41       | 4.26  |
| 1959-60 .. | 62.34  | 40.94   | 39.38  | 37.83 | 36.30       | 4.21  |
| 1960-61 .. | 62.08  | 38.02   | 39.50  | 37.79 | 38.55       | 4.46  |
| 1961-62 .. | 64.04  | 41.46   | 40.79  | 41.69 | 41.49       | 4.31  |
| 1962-63 .. | 61.38  | 39.96   | 39.64  | 36.54 | 42.09       | 4.70  |
| 1963-64 .. | 68.00  | 43.05   | 40.21  | 37.66 | 36.00       | 5.24  |
| 1964-65 .. | 69.59  | 53.11   | 54.60  | 54.02 | 46.99       | 5.06  |
| 1965-66 .. | 74.10  | 53.63   | 54.73  | 55.12 | 51.12       | 5.05  |
| 1966-67 .. | 86.29  | 60.79   | 61.58  | 63.62 | 53.61       | 5.42  |
| 1967-68 .. | 81.50  | 75.35   | 72.61  | 72.53 | 65.90       | 5.85  |
| 1968-69 .. | 106.90 | 74.24   | 71.62  | 71.73 | 68.75       | 6.85  |

The following table shows the annual average farm harvest prices of agricultural commodities during the last two years at Virudhunagar, the important market centre of the District. :—

ANNUAL AVERAGE FARM HARVEST PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

(Centre : Virudhunagar, Taluk —Sattur).

| Name of the Commodity.            | (Prices in rupees per quintal) |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | For the year,<br>1962-63.      | For the year<br>1963-64. |
|                                   | (2)                            | (3)                      |
| (1)                               | RS. P.                         | RS. P.                   |
| Paddy .. .. .                     | 37 92                          | 38 38                    |
| Cholam .. .. .                    | 38 20                          | 39 76                    |
| Ragi .. .. .                      | 29 83                          | 30 48                    |
| Cumbu .. .. .                     | 40 00                          | 40 40                    |
| Gingili Seeds (Block) .. .. .     | 105 60                         | 108 00                   |
| Groundnut (Unshelled) .. .. .     | 57 99                          | 59 22                    |
| Castor .. .. .                    | 40 00                          | 40 00                    |
| Cotton Kapas .. .. .              | 120 00                         | 118 00                   |
| Black-gram .. .. .                | 66 00                          | 65 76                    |
| Red-gram .. .. .                  | 51 00                          | 51 30                    |
| Horse-gram .. .. .                | 29 63                          | 30 25                    |
| Cow-gram .. .. .                  | 57 27                          | 57 27                    |
| Onions .. .. .                    | 16 63                          | 16 94                    |
| Chillies .. .. .                  | 170 00                         | 175 00                   |
| Green-gram .. .. .                | 60 80                          | 61 60                    |
| Varagu .. .. .                    | 30 77                          | 30 77                    |
| Kudiravallai .. .. .              | 50 00                          | 50 00                    |
| Brinjals (Vegetable) .. .. .      | 22 00                          | 21 50                    |
| Lady's Finger (Vegetable) .. .. . | 22 50                          | 22 00                    |

*Wages.*<sup>1</sup>

The wage level has risen considerably to-day. The ordinary day labourer in the District who did not earn more than about 25 to 50 paise per day during the early years of the century now earns as much as about a rupee and a half or even more.

The following are the average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers in the District in June 1962 compared with the corresponding State averages :

<sup>1</sup> See also the section on agricultural wages in the District in *Chapter IV—Agriculture and Irrigation.*

| Class of Labour.   | Wages paid per Day.<br>(June 1962). |    |                |    |
|--|-------------------------------------|----|----------------|----|
|  | In the District.                    |    | State average. |    |
|  | (2)                                 |    | (3)            |    |
|  | rs.                                 | P. | rs.            | P. |
| <b>Field Labour—</b>   |                                     |    |                |    |
| (Ploughers, sowers and transplanters<br>Weeders reapers and harvesters)— |                                     |    |                |    |
| Men .. .. .  | 1                                   | 50 | 1              | 54 |
| Women .. .. .  | 1                                   | 00 | 0              | 91 |
| Non-Adults .. .. .   | 0                                   | 75 | 0              | 84 |
| <b>Herdsmen :</b>  |                                     |    |                |    |
| Men .. .. .  | 1                                   | 25 | 1              | 25 |
| Women (Not employed) .. .. .   | ..                                  | .. | 0              | 73 |
| Non-adults .. .. .   | 1                                   | 00 | 0              | 81 |
| <b>Other agricultural Labourers—</b>                                     |                                     |    |                |    |
| Men .. .. .  | 1                                   | 50 | 1              | 46 |
| Women .. .. .  | 1                                   | 00 | 0              | 94 |
| Non-adults .. .. .   | ..                                  | .. | 0              | 84 |

The following table shows the average daily wages paid to skilled labour in the District in 1962 compared with the corresponding State averages :—

| Class of labour.    | Wages paid per day<br>(June 1962). |    |                |    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----|----------------|----|
|                     | In the District.                   |    | State Average. |    |
|                     | (2)                                |    | (3)            |    |
|                     | rs.                                | P. | rs.            | P. |
| Carpenters .. .. .  | 2                                  | 00 | 2              | 78 |
| Blacksmiths .. .. . | 2                                  | 00 | 2              | 83 |
| Cobblers. .. .. .   | 1                                  | 00 | 1              | 54 |

From the above figures it may be seen, that the wages paid for skilled labour in the District are slightly lower than the corresponding State averages.

### RIISING COST OF LIVING.

The general upward movements of prices in recent years have kept the cost of living also rising. The cost of living index numbers in the table below relating to the Madurai Centre which are representative of the zone comprising, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and

Tirunelveli Districts will illustrate. From the figures it may be seen that the cost of living as in (1970-71) had risen nearly eight times the level in 1936.

| Period.<br>(1)                | Index number.<br>(2) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Base: Year ended June 1936 .. | 100                  |
| 1941-42 .. ..                 | 111                  |
| 1942-43 .. ..                 | 146                  |
| 1943-44 .. ..                 | 197                  |
| 1944-45 .. ..                 | 205                  |
| 1945-46 .. ..                 | 232                  |
| 1946-47 .. ..                 | 266                  |
| 1947-48 .. ..                 | 300                  |
| 1948-49 .. ..                 | 341                  |
| 1949-50 .. ..                 | 358                  |
| 1950-51 .. ..                 | 349                  |
| 1951-52 .. ..                 | 370                  |
| 1952-53 .. ..                 | 372                  |
| 1953-54 .. ..                 | 375                  |
| 1954-55 .. ..                 | 337                  |
| 1955-56 .. ..                 | 317                  |
| 1956-57 .. ..                 | 364                  |
| 1957-58 .. ..                 | 366                  |
| 1958-59 .. ..                 | 385                  |
| 1959-60 .. ..                 | 414                  |
| 1960-61 .. ..                 | 458                  |
| 1961-62 .. ..                 | 470                  |
| 1962-63 .. ..                 | 482                  |
| 1963-64 .. ..                 | 474                  |
| 1964-65 .. ..                 | 529                  |
| 1965-66 .. ..                 | 567                  |
| 1966-67 .. ..                 | 630                  |
| 1967-68 .. ..                 | 650                  |
| 1968-69 .. ..                 | 656                  |
| 1969-70 .. ..                 | 711                  |
| 1970-71 .. ..                 | 798                  |

#### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF THE DISTRICT.

The District was formed in 1910. The population of the District according to the Census of 1911, a year after its constitution, was 1,658,453. The following table brings out the livelihood pattern of this population according to the Census of 1911<sup>1</sup> :—

| Occupation.<br>(1)                 | Per cent to the<br>District Population<br>(Actual workers<br>and dependants).<br>(3) |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Pastoral and agricultural .. ..    | 66.7   |
| Fishing and hunting .. ..          | 0.6  |
| Extraction of Minerals .. ..       | ..   |
| Industrial .. ..                   | 11.9   |
| Transport .. ..                    | 1.2  |
| Trade .. ..                        | 9.2  |
| Public Force .. ..                 | 0.3  |
| Public Administration .. ..        | 0.7  |
| Professions and Liberal arts .. .. | 1.7  |
| Independent .. ..                  | ..   |
| Domestic Service .. ..             | 0.4  |
| Indefinite .. ..                   | 7.0  |
| Unproductive .. ..                 | 0.3  |
| Total .. ..                        | 100.0  |

<sup>1</sup> Compiled from *A Statistical Atlas of the Madras Presidency, 1913.*

It may be seen from the table above that the bulk of the population (nearly 67 per cent) was supported by agricultural pursuits. Next in importance came industrial occupations and they supported nearly 12 per cent of the District population. The relative strength of the population supported by industrial occupations was, however, only about one-sixth of the strength supported by agricultural pursuits. Activities in trade supported about nine per cent of the total population and from the point of view of relative strength, it compared favourably with industrial pursuits. Professions and liberal arts supported only about 2 per cent of the total population. The numbers supported by public administration and public force were also small and accounted only for about 1 per cent of the total population. It is significant to note that the strength of the total population who had their means of subsistence independent of occupation was nil in the livelihood picture of the District.

As the pursuit of agriculture was the most important economic activity in the District during the period, it may be interesting to observe its 'internal structure'. The following table shows the 'internal structure' of the pastoral and agricultural livelihood class in the District as recorded in the Census of 1911 :—

| <i>Pastoral and Agricultural Class.</i>     | <i>Percent of actual<br/>workers and<br/>dependants to the<br/>total district<br/>Population.</i> |
|---|---|
| (1) <i>TERRESTRIAL</i>                      | (2)   |
| Cultivating Land-Owners .. .. .             | 50.7  |
| Non-cultivating land-owners .. .. .         | 1.1   |
| Cultivating tenants .. .. .                 | 7.1   |
| Non-cultivating tenants .. .. .             | 0.3   |
| Agents, managers of landed estates, etc. .. | 6.3   |
| Farm servants and field labourers ..        | 0.3   |
| Growers of special products .. .. .         | 0.2   |
| Forestry — — — .. .. .                      | ..  |
| Raising of farm stock and small animals.    | 0.7   |
| Total ..                                    | <u>66.7</u>   |

The cultivating land-owners including their dependants formed 50.7 per cent of the total population and the non-cultivating land-owners only 1.1 per cent. Absentee landlordism therefore, was negligible in the District. Cultivating tenants formed 7.1 per cent of the population and farm servants and field labourers 6.3 per cent. This shows the absence of the predominance of agricultural labourers in the District. In other words, most of the cultivation was carried on by owner-cultivators and cultivating tenants. The evil of

absentee landlordism, generally speaking, prevails only in rich deltaic areas. The agricultural holdings were also not large. The average size of a land holding was about 4.76 acres.

As already seen, next in importance to agricultural pursuits came industrial occupations, which supported nearly 12 per cent of the District population. The chief industries of the District during the period were cotton pressing, ginning and weaving. There were only 8 organised factories in the District according to the Census of 1911 and these together afforded employment for 857 persons. The table below records the description of those factories and the number of persons employed by each category<sup>1</sup>:—

| Description of the Factory.       | Number of factories. | Total number of persons employed. |          |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
|                                   |                      | Males.                            | Females. | Total. |
| (1)                               | (2)                  | (3)                               | (4)      | (5)    |
| Cotton Ginning Mills              | 4                    | 353                               | 176      | 529    |
| Cotton Pressing Mills             | 1                    | 60                                | 24       | 84     |
| Cotton Ginning and Pressing Mills | 3                    | 191                               | 53       | 244    |

Figures of occupational distribution of population between one period and another are not strictly comparable as the method of classification adopted at the different censuses has not been uniform. For instance the figures relating to agricultural and non-agricultural classes in the Census of 1931 are not directly comparable with those of 1921 because of fundamental changes in the basis of classification of occupations. The Census Commissioner of 1931 has himself remarked that a change in approach to some extent have affected the allocation of workers to various columns in the two censuses.<sup>2</sup> Figures relating to the Census of 1941 are not available as they were not compiled owing to war conditions. Therefore a narration of figures of livelihood classification of the population of the District in the Censuses of 1921 and 1931 as a guide to contemporary trends is of doubtful statistical value and is not given.

The livelihood pictures of the population of the District in recent years are obtained from the Census of 1951 and 1961. The Census of 1951 groups the livelihood classes into two broad categories — Agricultural and Non-Agricultural. Each of these is in turn subdivided into four classes. The following table presents the occupational structure of the population of the District in 1951 according to these eight livelihood classes.

<sup>1</sup> Compiled from the Census of India 1911, Vol. XII. *Imperial and Personal*, Table 1912, pages 248-258.

<sup>2</sup> *Census of India, 1931, Madras, Part I, Page 192.*

## LIVELIHOOD CLASSES.

*(Earners, earning dependants and non-earning dependants.)*

| <i>Agricultural classes.</i>  | <i>Percent to total population.</i> | <i>Non-agricultural classes.</i>                | <i>Percent to total population.</i> |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| (1)   | (2)                                 | (3)   | (4)                                 |
| I. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants.                   | 45.1                                | V. Production (other than cultivation).         | 12.3                                |
| II. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly un-owned and their dependants.               | 5.6                                 | VI. Commerce .. ..                              | 9.3                                 |
|   |                                     | VII. Transport .. ..                            | 1.3                                 |
| III. Cultivating labourers and their dependants.                                      | 11.8                                | VIII. Other services and miscellaneous sources. | 13.4                                |
| IV. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependants. | 1.2                                 | .. ..   | ..                                  |
| Total ..  | 63.7                                | Total ..  | 36.3                                |

From a look at the livelihood picture of the District in 1951, the one striking feature that may be discerned is the predominance of the agricultural classes in the livelihood pattern. More than three-fifths of the District population are found in the agricultural classes. But, however, the District is not so predominantly agricultural as the districts of Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur, Salem and South Arcot where the proportions of agricultural classes to their total population are 71.5 per cent, 69.9 per cent, 70.9 per cent and 81.7 per cent respectively. The entire State can be roughly divided into two broad regions the North-Eastern and the South-Western with unlike occupational structures by a North-West/South-Eastern line joining the Western boundary of Selam, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur districts. The North-Eastern region comprises of Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Salem and Tiruchirapalli districts. The South-Western region comprises of Coimbatore, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts<sup>1</sup>. The North-Eastern region shows an overwhelming importance of agricultural activities in its employment structure because of its better rainfall conditions and irrigational facilities. More than two-thirds of its population are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. In the South-Western region to which the Ramanathapuram District belongs, nature is not as kind as in the North-Eastern region with regard to agricultural activities. Nevertheless the

<sup>1</sup> The districts of the Nilgiris and Madras do not belong to either of these two regions and are individualistic in their occupational structures,



supply of hydro-electric power and transport facilities have given an incentive to the growth of activities other than agriculture in this region. Therefore in all the districts in this region, more than 35 per cent of the population are dependent upon non-agricultural activities <sup>1</sup>.

Of the four agricultural classes, the non-cultivating owners of land and agricultural renters class is the numerically smallest and accounts for only 1.2 per cent of the total population of the District. This shows that there is not much of absentee landlordism in the District. The class of owner cultivators is the numerically largest group and supports 45.1 per cent of the District population. Among the non-agricultural classes, numerically the most significant group is that engaged in 'Production'. The class — 'Transport' is the numerically smallest one.

Generally for a study of the occupational distribution several types of classification are adopted but among them the classification into industrial origin is a very important one and has been widely used. The standard classification recognises three distinct categories, namely, *Primary*, *Secondary* and *Tertiary*. The eight livelihood classes of the Census of 1951 may be grouped into these three categories as below :—

*Primary*:—Agricultural activities comprising livelihood Classes I-IV.

*Secondary*:—Production other than agriculture corresponding to Class V and

*Tertiary*:—Activities comprising classes VI-VIII.

Based on the above classification, the following table presents the occupational picture of the District in the three different sectors of economic activity, viz., *Primary*, *Secondary* and *Tertiary*.

| Sector.           |     |    |    |    |    | Percent to<br>total popula-<br>tion in 1951<br>(workers and<br>dependants). |
|-------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|---|
|                   | (1) |    |    |    |    | (2)   |
| Primary .. .. .   | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 63.7  |
| Secondary .. .. . | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12.3  |
| Tertiary .. .. .  | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 24.0  |
| Total ..          |     |    |    |    |    | 100.00  |

From the occupational picture of the District above it may be seen that the bulk of the occupational structure of the District is constituted by primary occupations. Agriculture is the main occupation in the District as it is generally all over the State except in large cities and industrial areas. The economy of the District, as of the State and of the Country as a whole, rests on the broad base of agriculture. Though the density of population in the

<sup>1</sup> National Council of Applied Economic Research : *Economic Atlas of Madras State*, 1962, pages 91-92.

District (455 persons per square mile—Census of 1951) was lower than the corresponding State average (638), the land area per capita in the District (148 cents) was higher than the State average (142 cents). The land area per capita in the District was also the highest among the present districts of the State as then constituted except the Nilgiris<sup>1</sup>. So also the area cultivated and the cultivable per capita in the District (114 cents) was also higher than the corresponding State average (92 cents) and was also the highest among the present districts of the State as then constituted<sup>2</sup>. The Techno-Economic Survey of Madras has also estimated that the man-land ratio in the Ramanathapuram District, viz., 0.69 acre per man (1955-56) was the highest in the State and was higher than the corresponding State average of 0.48 acre per man<sup>3</sup>. However, from the agricultural point of view, compared with the other districts of the State, the Ramanathapuram District is the least prosperous<sup>4</sup>. A study of the gross value of output per acre of cropped area in the districts of the State in 1955-56 reveals that the value of output in the Ramanathapuram District was the lowest (Rs. 144) and it was also much lower than the corresponding State average (Rs. 183). According to the Report of the Techno-Economic Survey the Ramanathapuram District is one among the three districts in the less developed agricultural region in the State, the other two being Salem and Coimbatore. In these districts, the value of output per acre is lower than the State average. Millets are the chief crop of the region. Soils in the region are relatively poor and both rainfall and irrigation facilities are deficient. In Ramanathapuram, the annual rainfall is about 32.3 inches, but nearly all of it takes place during the winter months, the rest of the year being extremely dry. Irrigated area in the District constitutes 33.4 per cent of the net area sown and depends almost entirely on tanks. The tanks are rainfed and water for irrigation from them is available only for two or three months after the rains. During the rest of the year very little water for irrigation is available and mostly dry farming is practised. Due to paucity of water in the region only a small proportion of the cultivated area can sustain more than one crop a year. Double cropped area is the lowest in the District<sup>5</sup>.

The sector-wise picture of the livelihood pattern of the District also reveals the importance of tertiary occupations in the District economy. The tertiary occupations of the District support relatively about twice the numbers supported by the secondary occupa-

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1. *Census of India, 1951—Madras and Coorg, Part I—Report*, page 107.

2. National Council of Applied Economic Research : *Techno Economic Survey of Madras*, 1960, page 138.

3. *Census of India, 1951, op. cit.*, page 41.

4. *Census of India, 1951—Madras and Coorg, Part I—Report*, page 79.

5. *Ibid* page 79.

tions. A high proportion of the tertiary activities in the occupational structure of the District reflects a diversified pattern of economic activity in the area. Generally speaking, a relatively high proportion of tertiary employment in the occupational structure of an area indicates growth of urbanisation, existence of better developed transport facilities and an improved standard of living among the people. The tertiary activities consisting of commerce, transport, public administration, health, education and domestic and personal services, support nearly a fourth of the total population of the District. Looking for instance at one of the tertiary activities, viz., road transport, it is observed that though the road mileage per square mile of area is the lowest in the Ramanathapuram District compared with the other districts of the State, the intensity with which roads are utilised (as indicated by the number of buses and trucks per 100 miles of roads) in the District, is higher than the intensity in many other districts<sup>1</sup>.

The industrial sector of the District supports 12.3 per cent of the total population of the District. Industrially, the District is neither highly developed like Coimbatore nor it is less developed like Kanyakumari. It is moderately developed<sup>2</sup>. According to the Census of 1951, the District employed about 6 per cent of the total industrial workers in the State. The District is specialised in chemical (match factories) and textile industries. About three-fourths of the total industrial workers in the District were employed by these two types of industries. This District supports more persons in chemical industries (mainly match factories) than any other district in the State. The District of Ramanathapuram also supports a fairly good number of workers in small-scale and cottage industries. The District is also specialised in textiles and a good number of workers in small-scale industries are engaged in textiles. The total number of workers in large-scale (factory) industries in the District in 1957 was 16,222. In the same year the number of non-factory workers (in small-scale industries) was 41,877<sup>3</sup>. The relative percentage proportion of workers employed in factory industries to non-factory industries in the District works to about 28.72.

#### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF THE DISTRICT IN 1961.

In the Census of 1961, unlike in earlier censuses, the new division of the population into workers and non-workers was introduced and the group 'workers' was further classified into nine livelihood

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1. *Ibid*, pages 163-164.

2. *Ibid*, page 50.

3. National Council of Applied Economic Research : *Economic Atlas of Madras State*, 1962, pages 97-101.

classes. The following table exhibits the relative strength of the working population (workers) in the Ramanathapuram District among the nine occupational categories :—

| <i>Livelihood Class (workers).</i>   |       | <i>Percent to<br/>total wor-<br/>kers in the<br/>District<br/>(11,61,370<br/>workers).</i> |
|--|-------|--|
| (1)  | (2)   |  |
| I. Cultivators .. .. .   | 53.0  |  |
| II. Agricultural Labourers .. .. .   | 14.4  |  |
| III. Workers in Mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing,<br>Hunting and Plantations, Orchards and Allied Activities. | 2.0   |  |
| IV. Workers at Household Industry .. .. .  | 7.9   |  |
| V. Workers in manufacturing other than Household Industry ..   | 4.4   |  |
| VI. Workers in Construction .. .. .  | 0.8   |  |
| VII. Workers in Trade and Commerce .. .. .   | 4.3   |  |
| VIII. Workers in Transport, Storage and Communications .. ..   | 0.9   |  |
| IX. Workers in Other Services .. .. .  | 12.3  |  |
| Total .. .. .  | 100.0 |  |

It may be seen from the table above that the class—'Cultivators' constitutes the bulk of the occupational structure of the District. In the order of numerical strength this class is followed by the class—'Agricultural Labourers'. Nearly 12 per cent of the total workers in the District are engaged at 'Household Industry' and in 'Manufacturing' and an equal strength of workers find employment in 'Other Services'. Trade and commercial activities in the District provide employment for about 4 per cent of the total workers and only less than a per cent are engaged, in each of the classes—'Construction', 'Transport', 'Storage' and Communications.

*Occupational shifts:*—No special study appears to have been made so far, regarding the occupational shifts in the District. As already observed due to widely varying standards of enumeration and classification of occupations adopted at the different censuses, it is also not possible to say anything definite about the occupational shifts in the District without a special and elaborate study. However, from the livelihood pictures of the District at different periods given above, certain very broad trends may be observed. The one striking trend discernible is the continuance of the predominance of the primary occupations. This is, however, nothing peculiar to the District, as it is the trend noticed in almost all the districts of the State and all other States in the Country.

Though the relative proportion of the industrial class in the livelihood pattern of the District does not appear to have varied greatly over the years there has been in fact considerable growth of industrial activity in the District. As already seen on page 4 above the industrial statistics compiled in the Census of 1911 enumerated only the existence of 8 cotton ginning and pressing factories in the District which provided employment for 857 persons. To-day (1964) there are 502<sup>1</sup> factories in the District which on the average find employment for 18,318 workers. The table below further shows, the diversified pattern of the industrial activity in the District that has also arisen over the years.

INDUSTRY-WISE DETAILS OF THE FACTORIES IN THE DISTRICT.

| <i>Name of the Industry</i> |    |    | <i>Number of factories covered by the Factories Act, 1948</i> | <i>Average number of workers employed (1964).</i> |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| (1)                         |    |    | (2)   | (3)   |
| Cotton Ginning              | .. | .. | 41  | 2,429   |
| Rice Milling                | .. | .. | 88  | 309   |
| Cotton Textiles             | .. | .. | 20  | 4,298   |
| Printing Press              | .. | .. | 80  | 2,299   |
| Match Industries            | .. | .. | 65  | 3,484   |
| Engineering Works           | .. | .. | 19  | 366   |
| Transport Industries        | .. | .. | 20  | 546   |
| Others                      | .. | .. | 169   | 4,587   |
| Total                       |    |    | 502   | 18,318  |

#### BURDEN OF DEPENDENCY IN THE DISTRICT.

The 1961 census figures<sup>2</sup> show that in the District out of the total population of 24,21,788 persons, 12,60,418 persons or about 52 per cent of the total population have no work and are dependent for their living on those who work. Based on these figures the ratio of dependency in the District as between workers and non-workers works to 1 : 1.1. The dependency load works to 1.1. In other words, the average worker in the District has to support besides himself one or nearly two dependants. For the State as a whole the dependency load is 1.2. Compared to this State average the dependency load in the District is nothing abnormal and is actually lower than the State average by 0.1. Further, of the 12,60,418 non-workers in the District 7,69,530 persons are females. It has to be noted that a majority of the women like housewives may not seek any employment due to social custom and practice and may be attending to household duties. It has also to be noted that a percentage of the number of non-workers may also be children, the aged and the infirm who can do no work.

<sup>1</sup> The number represents only factories covered by the Factories Act, 1948,

<sup>2</sup> The Census of 1961.

The following table reviews the burden of dependency in the District during the first forty years since the formation of the District<sup>1</sup>.

|         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | Per cent to total population. |                  |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
|         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | Workers.                      | Depen-<br>dents. |
| Period. |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | (2)                           | (3)              |
| (1)     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |                               |                  |
| 1911    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48                            | 52               |
| 1921    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 43                            | 57               |
| 1931    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53                            | 47               |
| 1941    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | (N.A.)*                       | (N.A.)           |
| 1951    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30                            | 70               |
| 1961    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48                            | 52               |
| 1971    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37                            | 63               |

(N.A.)\*—*Figures not available.*

According to the Census figures of 1951, the percentage of earners to the total population of the District, viz., 30.4 per cent compared favourably with corresponding figures the State average of 29.9 per cent, and with the corresponding figures relating to the neighbouring northern districts of Madurai (30.0 per cent), Tiruchirappalli (30.1 per cent) and Thanjavur (30.3 per cent).

#### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE DISTRICT.

The following table records the number of employers, employees and independent workers in the non-agricultural sector of the District (in *industries and services*) according to the Census of 1951 :—

|                     |    |    |    |    |    | Number of persons. |          |          |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------------|----------|----------|
|                     |    |    |    |    |    | Males.             | Females. | Total.   |
|                     |    |    |    |    |    | (1)                | (2)      | (3)      |
| Employers           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14,750             | 2,266    | 17,016   |
| Employees           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 55,906             | 14,353   | 70,259   |
| Independent Workers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 87,917             | 24,029   | 1,11,946 |
| Total               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,58,573           | 40,648   | 1,99,221 |

1. It may be noted that due to changes in the definition of concepts at the various censuses, the figures relating to one period may not always be absolutely comparable with that of another. Therefore, from the figures in the table no general conclusion can be drawn.

The figures above show that there are more number of independent workers in *industries* and *services* in the District than the total number of employers and employees. The percentage of independent workers in *industries* and *services* in the District to the total number of all workers in them amounts to nearly 56 per cent. The corresponding percentages relating to employers and employees are roughly 9 and 35.

The following table records the number of employers, employees and independent workers in the District, divisions of industries and services according to the Census of 1951 :—



| Division.   | Employers. |          | Employees. |          | Independent Workers. |          |
|---|------------|----------|------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
|   | Males.     | Females. | Males.     | Females. | Males.               | Females. |
| (1)   | (2)        | (3)      | (4)        | (5)      | (6)                  | (7)      |
| 0. Primary industries not elsewhere specified like stock raising plantation, etc.               | 1,080      | 105      | 2,136      | 331      | 8,462                | 1,093    |
| 1. Mining and Quarrying .. .. .   | 178        | 5        | 281        | 156      | 831                  | 90       |
| 2. Processing and Manufacturing Food-stuffs, textiles, and leather products thereof.            | 2,292      | 274      | 7,326      | 2,105    | 19,380               | 6,047    |
| 3. Processing and Manufacturing Metals, Chemicals and products thereof.                         | 662        | 77       | 2,463      | 1,117    | 3,095                | 315      |
| 4. Processing and Manufacturing not elsewhere specified like petroleum coal bricks, tiles, etc. | 337        | 3        | 622        | 4        | 2,280                | 62       |
| 5. Construction and utilities .. .. .   | 284        | 31       | 3,496      | 807      | 4,291                | 947      |
| 6. Commerce .. .. .   | 6,853      | 1,402    | 10,163     | 2,253    | 20,275               | 6,511    |
| 7. Transport, Storage and Communications ..   | 580        | 1        | 4,686      | 80       | 1,971                | 130      |
| 8. Health, Education and Public Administration ..   | 136        | 24       | 10,196     | 1,932    | 1,421                | 385      |
| 9. Services not elsewhere specified like domestic services, etc.                                | 1,732      | 310      | 13,083     | 5,243    | 20,097               | 7,264    |
|   |            |          |            |          |                      | 57,828   |



From the figures in the table above it may be seen that the largest number of employers in the District are found in the division—'Commerce'. The division—'Services not elsewhere specified' contains the maximum number of employees in the District. Again it is the same division—'Services not elsewhere specified' that contains the largest number of independent workers.

Up-to-date information on employment and unemployment is still meagre and the only latest information available on the subject is that given by the employment organisation (the District Employment Office). The traffic in the employment office cannot however, be taken to reflect the sum total of employment opportunities available and the prevalent unemployment in the area. Nevertheless the statistics of the employment organisation roughly give an idea of the general trend of employment and unemployment in the area covered. The changes from time to time in the number of applicants on the Live Register of the employment Office may particularly indicate the general trend of employment and unemployment in the District.

After the end of World War II in order to facilitate early and orderly resettlement of the demobilised service personnel the Government of India set up a net work of Employment Exchanges throughout the Country. This service which was initially intended for the benefit of the demobilised persons was slowly and steadily expanded to cover all types of employment seekers, irrespective of whether or not they were ex-servicemen; and an Employment Exchange was established in every District. In the Ramanathapuram District an Employment Exchange was established in the year 1945, by the Government of India. Later the Government of India handed over the day-to-day administration of the Employment Exchanges to the respective State Governments. In November 1956, the Government of Madras took over all the Employment Exchanges in the State including the one in the Ramanathapuram District. Besides employment service, the employment organisation, has also in recent years launched schemes for the collection of employment market information in the public and private sectors.

The figures in the following table give an idea of the working of the employment organisation in the District (the District Employment Office) during the period 1954-70. The figures also broadly indicate the fluctuations in the unemployment level in the District during the period.

| Year. | Registration. |               | Placings.   |               | Number on the Live Register at the end of the year. |               |               |
|-------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| (1)   | Men.<br>(2)   | Women.<br>(3) | Men.<br>(4) | Women.<br>(5) | Men.<br>(6)   | Women.<br>(7) | Total.<br>(8) |
| 1954  | ..            | ..            | 1,190       | 58            | 3,168   | 102           | 3,270         |
| 1955  | ..            | ..            | 1,061       | 86            | 2,496   | 96            | 2,592         |
| 1956  | ..            | ..            | 1,650       | 87            | 3,355   | 170           | 3,525         |
| 1957  | ..            | ..            | 1,294       | 154           | 3,987   | 243           | 4,230         |
| 1958  | ..            | ..            | 1,977       | 282           | 4,691   | 404           | 5,095         |
| 1959  | ..            | ..            | 2,004       | 278           | 5,893   | 561           | 6,454         |
| 1960  | ..            | ..            | 1,816       | 426           | 5,758   | 641           | 6,399         |
| 1961  | ..            | ..            | 1,996       | 328           | 6,363   | 769           | 7,132         |
| 1962  | ..            | ..            | 1,731       | 396           | 7,509   | 855           | 8,364         |
| 1963  | ..            | ..            | 1,707       | 376           | 7,693   | 792           | 8,485         |
| 1964  | ..            | ..            | 1,852       | 587           | 7,123   | 769           | 7,892         |
| 1965  | ..            | ..            | 2,586       | 445           | 8,355   | 781           | 9,136         |
| 1966  | ..            | ..            | 2,141       | 478           | 9,363   | 1,556         | 10,919        |
| 1967  | ..            | ..            | 1,263       | 365           | 8,826   | 1,663         | 10,489        |
| 1968  | ..            | ..            | 1,501       | 259           | 11,226  | 1,825         | 13,051        |
| 1969  | ..            | ..            | 1,519       | 371           | 12,869  | 2,619         | 15,488        |
| 1970  | ..            | ..            | 1,674       | 467           | 14,560  | 2,647         | 17,207        |

The following table shows the number of the educated unemployed in the District as registered at the District Employment Office during the period 1959-70:—

| Year. |       | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| (1)   |       | (2)    | (3)      | (4)    |
| 1959  | . . . | 1,753  | 130      | 1,883  |
| 1960  | . . . | 2,156  | 176      | 2,332  |
| 1961  | . . . | 2,520  | 241      | 2,761  |
| 1962  | . . . | 2,882  | 273      | 3,155  |
| 1963  | . . . | 2,428  | 144      | 2,572  |
| 1964  | . . . | 2,744  | 183      | 2,927  |
| 1965  | . . . | 3,039  | 224      | 3,283  |
| 1966  | . . . | 5,002  | 580      | 5,582  |
| 1967  | . . . | 4,825  | 912      | 5,737  |
| 1968  | . . . | 6,325  | 1,154    | 7,479  |
| 1969  | . . . | 7,969  | 1,619    | 9,588  |
| 1970  | . . . | 8,743  | 1,577    | 10,320 |

The following are the categories of employment for which candidates are generally in short supply in the District:—

High School Assistants (in the subjects of Mathematics and Science), Tamil Pandit, Grade I, Physical Training Instructors, Typist (in Tamil language), Pharmacists, Doctors (Allopathic), Nurses and X-ray Assistants.

The following are the categories of employment for which candidates are generally available in larger numbers in the District:—

Clerical and Unskilled office workers such as peons, attenders, etc.

The following table shows the occupational categories among the applicants on the Live Register of the District Employment Office as at the end of December 1960 and December 1970:—

| Occupational Category.  | 31st December, 1960. |              | 31st December, 1970. |              |
|---|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|   | Numbers.             | Per-centage. | Numbers.             | Per-centage. |
| (1)   | (2)                  | (3)          | (4)                  | (5)          |
| Professional, Technical and related workers.  | 968                  | 15.11        | 3,354                | 19.50        |
| Administrative, Executive and Managerial workers.   | 10                   | 0.10         | 23                   | 0.13         |
| Clerical and related workers . .  | 330                  | 5.15         | 314                  | 2.00         |
| Craftsmen and Production process workers.   | 117                  | 1.83         | 615                  | 3.58         |
| Sales workers, Farmers, Fishermen, Miners, Quarrymen, and related workers and workers in Transport and Communication occupations. | 469                  | 7.33         | 550                  | 3.20         |
| Service workers (i.e. Cooks, Chowkidars, Sweepers, etc.).   | 264                  | 4.13         | 246                  | 1.42         |
| Labourers with work experience not elsewhere specified.   | ..                   | ..           | ..                   | ..           |
| Persons without professional or vocational training or previous work experience.  | 4,241                | 66.29        | 12,075               | 70.17        |
| Total . .   | 6,699                | 100          | 17,207               | 100.00       |

1. Source : The Director of Employment and Training, Madras.

2 and 3. Source : District Employment Officer, Ramanathapuram District.

The following table shows the number of corporate employers in the District during the period 1961-70:—

| Period.              | Number of Employers. (Establishments.) |               |        |
|----------------------|--|---------------|--------|
|                      | Public.                                | Private.      | Total. |
| (1)                  | (2)                                    | (3)           | (4)    |
| As on 31st December— |  |               |        |
| 1961                 | 199                                    | 1,626         | 1,825  |
| 1962                 | 257                                    | 788           | 1,045  |
| 1963                 | 271                                    | 795           | 1,066  |
| 1964                 |  | Not available |        |
| 1965                 | 294                                    | 783           | 1,077  |
| 1966                 | 299                                    | 776           | 1,075  |
| 1967                 | 298                                    | 812           | 1,110  |
| 1968                 | 306                                    | 835           | 1,141  |
| 1969                 | 293                                    | 729           | 1,022  |
| 1970                 | 323                                    | 820           | 1,143  |

The following data based on an Employment Market Information Survey<sup>2</sup> conducted by the Director of Employment also reveal the pattern of employment and unemployment in the District:

The scope of the Survey was limited to non-agricultural wage and salaried employment. In other words, self-employed persons, unpaid family workers and other non-institutional employees were not within the scope of the Survey. In the private Sector, the Survey was also limited to establishments employing 5 and more workers. The period covered by the Survey was October to December 1961.

The overall employment in the District reported by the 1,584 establishments which responded to the enquiry was 52,786 persons at the end of December 1961. Of this 27,759 persons were employed in the *private sector*, by 1,388 establishments. The rest namely, 25,027 persons, were employed in the *public sector*. There were 10,614 women employees in the District.

The Ramanathapuram employment market recorded a significant decrease of 1,673 persons (3.1 per cent) during the period of the Survey (October-December 1961). Both the public and private sectors shared the decrease. There was a set back in *private sector* employment during the period. 1,386 establishments reported a decrease of 1,100 persons. Industry-wise manufacturing (—952), trade and commerce (—67), construction (—48) and services (—35) employed less number of persons during the period. The decrease under 'manufacturing' during the period was chiefly due to seasonal decline in employment under manufacture of fire works and matches and cotton ginning.

1. District Employment Officer, Ramanathapuram District.

2. *Ramanathapuram Employment Market News for the Quarter ended December 1961*, issued by the Director of Employment, Madras.

The following further data from the Survey reveal the unemployment trend in the District during the period of the Survey.

Two thousand seven hundred and thirty-five applicants were registered at the District Employment Office during the period of the Survey. The cumulative number of applicants on the Live Register of the District Employment Office was 7,132 (including 769 women) at the end of December 1961. Persons without work experience and technical or vocational training constituted more than two thirds of the number on Live Register. 541 vacancies were notified during the period of the Survey and 443 vacancies were filled, mostly in 'Services'. The area experienced dearth of hands in the following categories of employment during the period of the Survey :—

Architect,  
Engineer (Mechanical),  
Pharmacist,  
Health Visitor, and  
Nurse.

The following table shows the number of the establishments that reported to the Survey and the number of employees in them as on 31st December 1961, by the major industrial divisions :—

| <i>Division.</i> | <i>Description of the Industry Division.</i>      | <i>Number of reporting establishments both in the private and public sectors (coverage in the private sector limited to establishments engaging five and more workers.</i> | <i>Number of employees</i> |
|------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| (1)              | (2)   | (3)  | (4)                        |
| 0                | Plantations, Forestry, Sea Fishing and livestock. | 8  | 7                          |
| 2 & 3            | Manufacturing .. .. .                             | 475  | 16,665                     |
| 4                | Construction .. .. .                              | 14   | 1,216                      |
| 6                | Trade and Commerce .. .. .                        | 345  | 2,999                      |
| 7                | Transport and Communications ..                   | 32   | 1,983                      |
| 8                | Services .. .. .                                  | 710  | 19,266                     |
|                  | Total ..  | 1,584  | 52,786                     |

#### CONTRIBUTION OF THE DISTRICT TO STATE INCOME AND THE PER CAPITA OF THE DISTRICT.

The State Income of Madras was estimated at Rs. 732.37 crores (at current prices) in 1955-56. The Ramana hapuram District contributed Rs. 42.25 crores to this State Income. The Contribution of the District was roughly one-seventeenth of the total State Income. From the point of view of its contribution, the District ranked 10th among the 13 districts of the State. The

following table shows the sector-wise contribution of the District to the State Income compared with the corresponding figures for the whole State <sup>1</sup> :—

| (Year 1955-56.) |    |    |    |    |    | Income.<br>(Rupees in crores at current prices). |                        |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|------------------------|
|                 |    |    |    |    |    | Ramanathapuram District.                         | State (all districts). |
| 1. Primary      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14.73  | 316.82                 |
| 2. Secondary    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6.84   | 123.02                 |
| 3. Tertiary     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23.07  | 292.53                 |
| Total income    |    |    |    |    |    | 42.25  | 732.37                 |

From the figures above it may be seen that to the State Income of Rs. 732.37 crores, the primary sector contributed about 43 per cent, the secondary sector about 17 per cent and the tertiary sector about 40 per cent. To the contribution of the District of Rs. 42.25 crores to the State Income, the primary sector contributed about 36 per cent, the secondary sector about 16 per cent and the tertiary sector about 48 per cent. The income generated from the tertiary sector of the District economy was higher than those from the primary and secondary sectors. The tertiary income of the District was nearly triple that of the income from the secondary sector. The proportionate incomes from the primary and secondary sectors of the District to the total income of the District were lower than the corresponding State figures. The proportionate income from the tertiary sector of the District to its total income was, however, higher than the corresponding State figure.

The Per Capita Income of the District in 1955-56 was estimated at Rs. 191.61 and was the lowest in the State next to that of the Salem District (Rs. 173.42). The Per Capita Income of the District was also much lower than the corresponding State average, which stood at Rs. 229.38. The Per Capita Income of the District from the primary sector was Rs. 66.80 against the State average of Rs. 99.23, that from the secondary sector was Rs. 31.02 against Rs. 38.53, and that from the tertiary sector was Rs. 93.79 against Rs. 91.62 for the State as a whole. The Ramanathapuram District exhibited the lowest per capita output in the State (Rs. 66.8) from the agricultural sector. In the District, the Per Capita Income from all sectors other than the tertiary sector was also below the State average.

1. National Council of Applied Economic Research: *Techno-Economic Survey of Madras—Economic Report 1961*, pages 18-19 and *Economic Atlas of Madras State 1962*, Pages 133-136.

The following table records the Per Capita Income of the State for the years since 1950-51 to 1970-71<sup>1</sup> :—

| Year.           | Per Capita Income at |                                |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
|                 | Current Prices.      | Constant Prices<br>(1960-1961) |
|                 | (2)                  | (3)                            |
| (1)             | RS.                  | RS.                            |
| 1950-1951 .. .. | 204                  | 257                            |
| 1955-1956 .. .. | 241                  | 302                            |
| 1960-1961 .. .. | 335                  | 335                            |
| 1965-1966 .. .. | 434                  | 352                            |
| 1970-1971 .. .. | 644*                 | 389*                           |

\*Provisional

It is encouraging to note that the State Per Capita Income has been steadily rising over the years from Rs. 257 in 1950-51, to Rs. 335 in 1960-61, and Rs. 389 in 1970-71. The figures of Per Capita Income relating to the District are not available, as district-wise figures have not yet been compiled. However, it may well be presumed that all the districts in the State including the Ramanathapuram District would have shared in this considerable growth of the Per Capita Income of the State.

#### FAMILY BUDGETS.

No family budget survey has been conducted exclusively for the District. The following results of the Intensive Family Survey conducted in the State during the year 1950-51 may, however, be of interest for a general understanding of the family budgets of the agricultural labour of the District.

This Intensive Family Survey was conducted by the Government of India under the *All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry* in villages selected on the basis of *stratified random sampling*. Roughly about fifty per cent of the agricultural labour families in each of the sample villages were selected for the Survey. For the purpose of the Enquiry, the State as constituted in 1950-51, was divided on geographical and climatic considerations, into seven zones. The Ramanathapuram District belonged to Zone II along with the irrigated taluks of South Arcot, North Arcot, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai and the districts of Thanjavur and Tirunelveli. Of the agricultural labour families surveyed in the State, 98.6 per cent were those of casual workers and only 1.4 per cent of attached workers. In Zone II of the Survey in which the Ramanathapuram

1. These estimates are those framed by the Director of Statistics, Madras. The estimate for the year 1955-56 cited earlier, which was framed by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, slightly differs from that framed by the Director of Statistics, Madras.

District was included, the average size of the agricultural labour families surveyed was 4 and the average earning strength was 1.1. The average number of earners in each family was 2.0, which consisted of 0.9 men, 1.0 women and 0.1 children. Child labour was insignificant. The average total annual income per family in the zone was Rs. 360. Of this income, 17.2 per cent was from cultivation of land, 66.9 from agricultural labour, 8.1 per cent from non-agricultural labour, 5.7 per cent from occupations other than farming and 2.1 per cent from other sources. The average annual expenditure of a family in the zone was Rs. 370 and the expenditure on ceremonies amounted to another Rs. 9. The average annual deficit per family was Rs. 19.

The following table records the percentage expenditure on the different groups of items of consumption (excluding ceremonies) :—

| Consumption group.                 | Percentage expenditure to total expenditure. | Average annual expenditure. |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| (1)                                | (2)  | In Rs.<br>(3)               |
|                                    |  | RS.                         |
| Food .. .. .                       | 82.2   | 3 3.9                       |
| Clothing and Foot-wear .. .. .     | 6.8  | 25.0                        |
| Fuel and lighting .. .. .          | 0.9  | 3.3                         |
| House-rent and repairs .. .. .     | 0.9  | 3.3                         |
| Services and miscellaneous .. .. . | 9.2  | 34.1                        |
| Total .. .. .                      | 100.0  | 369.6                       |

As may be expected the major portion of the total expenditure was incurred on the food group. Rice was the main cereal consumed. Out of the average annual expenditure of Rs. 303.9 on the food group, Rs. 137.4 were spent on rice. The amounts spent on *ragi*, *cumbu* and *varagu* were Rs. 15.0, Rs. 25.0 and Rs. 36 respectively. The amount spent on wheat was negligible (Rs. 0.1). The amount spent on spices was Rs. 9.9 and that on vegetables was Rs. 6.9. On meat, fish and eggs Rs. 13.0 were spent and on milk products only Re. 1.0 was spent. The expenditure on clothing and foot-wear constituted 6.8 per cent of the total consumption expenditure. This amount totally related to clothing as the use of foot-wear by agricultural workers was rare. The houses of most of the agricultural workers were *kutchas* and were owned by them. Hence the expenditure on "House-rent and repairs" was insignificant. So also the labour families seldom bought any fuel and spent very little on lighting. Therefore, the expenditure on both accounted only for about 1.8 per cent of the total expenditure. About 9 per cent of the total expenditure was on services and miscellaneous items like washerman, barber, soap, tobacco, etc. This consumption group constituted a very important



group next only to the food group. In this group, the major expenditure was on tobacco and *pansupari* and on these more than half of the amount of expenditure on the group as a whole was spent '.

#### NATIONAL PLANNING AND PROGRESS.

In the years since World War II, in most parts of the world there had been an exceedingly active discussion on economic development, especially in countries like India, which had emerged as new nations with political independence after years of foreign domination. For the new nations that are in the beginning stages of national development it has been well recognised that economic development is an imperative. It has also been recognised that economic planning is the best instrument to correct the economic ills of a country. The need for economic planning by a developing country needs no emphasis. The concept of planning is not an entirely new idea to the country. There had been considerable and careful thinking on the subject of economic planning for the Country starting with Sir M. Visveswaraya's *Planned Economy for India* published as early as in 1934. However, it was only after the attainment of Independence in 1947 that the need for immediate economic development and for that purpose the necessity of economic planning were immensely felt. When Independence came, the country had a slender industrial base. Millions of her rural people suffered under the weight of a traditional agrarian structure. A long period of economic stagnation against the background of increasing pressure of population, followed by the burdens of the Second World War, had weakened the Indian economy. There was widespread poverty and want. The partition of the Country had uprooted millions of people and dislocated economic life. Productivity in agriculture and industry stood at a low level. In relation to needs, the available domestic savings were altogether meagre. The economic foundations of the country were to be greatly strengthened. The Constitution established equal rights of citizenship, and these had now to be expressed through rising the levels of living and providing greater opportunities for social and economic development of the bulk of the people. It was essential to rebuild the rural economy, to lay the foundation of industrial and scientific progress, and to expand education and other social services. These called for *Planning on a National Scale* encompassing all aspects of economic and social life, for efforts to mobilise resources, to determine priorities and goals and to create a widespread outlook of change and technological progress. Thus *Planned Development* was the only means for securing with the utmost speed possible, a high rate of growth, reconstructing the institutions of economic and social life and harnessing the energies of the people to the tasks of

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1. Source : Compiled from the *Report of Intensive Survey of Agricultural Labour*, Government of India, Ministry of Labour, 1955, volume VI, South India

National development. Accordingly the Planning Commission was appointed in 1950 with Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister, as its Chairman. So far the Commission had drawn up three National Plans—The First Five-Year Plan (1951–56), the Second Five-Year Plan (1956–61), and the Third Five-Year Plan (1961–66).

For the implementation of the various schemes covered by the National Plans, three broad sectors were envisaged according to the agencies which are to be responsible for the implementation of the various schemes. The first one is the Central Sector made up of the major development works undertaken by the Central Government such as the installation of the new steel plants, heavy machinery plants, fertiliser units, coal mining schemes, oil exploration and refineries, improvements to major ports and railways, etc. Next comes the State Sector comprising schemes for the development of agriculture, power, communications, social services such as education, health, rural uplift, etc. The third sector is the Private Sector representing the investment by the general public in organised industries like the textiles, cement, sugar, engineering and other consumer goods.

The implementation of the First Five-Year Plan began in 1951. The plan was conceived modestly. It attempted to tackle the prevailing inflationary situation and the food shortage. But in several directions it set into motion new social and economic forces, whose significance grew with time. The central objective of First Five-Year Plan was to strengthen the economy at the base and to impart to it a measure of strength and stability. It was formulated at a time when the country was reckoning with the dislocation caused by the War and partition, with inflationary pressures in the wake of the hostilities in Korea and with shortages of food and essential raw materials. The Plan aimed at correcting these imbalances and at imparting momentum to an otherwise stagnant economy. The Second Five-Year Plan was formulated with objectives bolder and more far reaching than those of the First Plan. The Second Five-Year Plan sought to rebuild rural India, to lay the foundations of industrial progress and to secure for the weaker and under privileged sections of the people opportunities of maximum development. The two Five-Year Plans have together by and large helped to strengthen the foundations of economic and social life and have stimulated industrial and economic growth and scientific and technological advancement in the Country.

In 1961, the Third Five-Year Plan was inaugurated. The general pattern of development followed in the Third Plan necessarily flows in large part from the basic approach and experience of the Second Plan. However, in some important respects it represents a wider view of the problems of development and calls

both for more intensive and a greater sense of urgency. In particular, the Third Plan is directed towards strengthening the agricultural economy, developing industry, power and transport and hastening the process of industrial and technological change, achieving marked progress towards equality of opportunity and the socialistic pattern of society and providing employment for the entire addition to the labour force. It should be pointed out that the Third Five-Year Plan represents an important phase in the development of the Country's economy. In the course of the first two Plans, the field organisation and the administrative machinery for agricultural development have been greatly strengthened. The development of the steel industry and of mining, power and transport provides the nucleus for more rapid advance in industrialisation. It is therefore vital that the tempo of development that has been attained already is accelerated in the Third Plan and even more in the Fourth Plan to be formulated. The success that can be achieved in this ten year period will make a vital difference to the standards of living of the people and the future growth rate of the economy.

The Ramanathapuram District, needless to point out, shares in the benefits accruing from this stupendous National Planning in the Country. Before dwelling on the role of the District in the Five-Year Plans, it may be noted that the Government of Madras as early as in 1946 formulated the Rural Welfare Scheme, which aimed at reviving and revitalizing village life. This Scheme envisaged many reforms for the regeneration of the village. It envisaged the construction of roads, the improvement of water-supply, sanitation and health, the development of agriculture, livestock and cottage industries, the introduction of electricity, the encouragement of Khadi, the provision of basic education, the formation of co-operative societies and the reorganisation of the panchayats. To start with in 1946, the Scheme was launched in 34 selected firkas in the composite Madras State and was gradually extended to additional areas. Later with the inauguration of the first Five-Year Plan in 1951 and the introduction of the Community Development Programme, the Rural Welfare Scheme was merged with them.

In the Ramanathapuram District the Rural Welfare Scheme, (the Firka Development Scheme) was launched in 1946 in the Malli Firka of the Srivilliputtur Taluk covering 13 villages, namely, Malli, Mallipudur, Mullikulam, Viluppanur, Pattakulam Sallipatti, Achanthavilthan, Ayan Nachiar Koil, Poovani, Muthuvenkatarayapuram, T. Managaseri, Achankulam, Keelarajakulam raman and Semmanandikarisalkulam.

The Rural Welfare Scheme was under the direct charge of the Collector of the District and he was assisted in the implementation of the Scheme by a Firka Development Officer and a few *Gram-sevaks*. In order to co-ordinate the work in the various firkas

in the State and to attend to the technical aspects of the Scheme, a Provincial Firka Development Officer (later called the Director of Rural Welfare) was also appointed, with two Regional Firka Development Officers to assist him. And, as the essence of the Scheme consisted in enlisting the Co-operation of the villagers, committees were constituted in each *firka* to implement the schemes drawn up. The drawing up of the schemes was entrusted to a State Firka Development Board formed at Madras consisting of the Heads of Departments and constructive workers, and this Board was assisted by a Standing Advisory Sub-Committee.

In the areas of implementation, the Scheme brought about considerable social and economic improvements. One of the important measures that was initiated under the Scheme was the construction of roads for linking up the villages to the main roads leading to the towns. Public health being the very foundation upon which all other activities depended, particular attention was paid to the improvement of sanitation and water supply and the provision of medical aid. Clean drinking water is not generally available in the villages, nor are proper drains and latrines to be found in them. The digging of drinking water wells and the construction of sanitary latrines and drains were also therefore given priority. Maternity and Child-Welfare Centres and dispensaries were also opened. In order to make the villages self-sufficient in the matter of food, much attention was also paid to agriculture and irrigation. Attempts were made to increase the productivity of lands by the supply of better seeds and manure, by the protection of crops against pests and diseases and by the use of better implements and better cattle. Agricultural implements were also distributed at half the cost price to the poor cultivators and the importance of preparing and using compost manure was emphasised. Several Grow More Food concessions such as the hiring out of pump sets, the distribution of improved seeds of paddy and chemical manures at cheap rates, and the grant of interest-free loans for the purchase of seed and manure were extended to the cultivators. Special steps were taken to improve the minor irrigation works and the investigation of some major schemes were also undertaken. In 1946, an elaborate scheme was also drawn up for the development of cottage industries. Electrification of the *firkas* was also given priority with a view to provide power for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes. In order to attain self-sufficiency in cloth, the Government formulated in 1946 an Intensive Khadi Scheme and in 1949 an Extensive Khadi Scheme for implementation in selected *firkas*. Co-operative societies were also formed in many *firkas* in the State coming under the Scheme. In the sphere of education, the new type of education called the Basic Education, which lays emphasis on learning by doing, was introduced. The Scheme also gave an impetus to the revival of the panchayat system, which had fallen into decay under the foreign rule.

In the Firka selected for development in the District under the scheme special attention was paid to Rural Water Supply Scheme, Well Subsidiary Scheme, Improvement of Irrigation Sources and grant of loans to ryots.

Thus at the time when the First Five-Year Plan was inaugurated in 1951, the Rural Welfare Scheme already in operation had created a favourable atmosphere for more vigorous economic development in the State and the districts, including Ramanathapuram.

The First Five-Year Plan and the Second and Third Five-Year Plans have since been completed.

A brief account of how the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans for the District were formulated is given below:

*The First Five-Year Plan:*—The Government fixed the magnitude of the funds available for expenditure in the District among the various heads. This was communicated to the heads of offices of the various departments in the District. The heads of offices prepared the plans and estimates for the works already in progress and also for the proposed works for the five years.

*The Second Five-Year Plan:*—In 1952 a District Planning Board was constituted in the District. All the District Officers, Municipal Chairman, Members of Legislative Assembly, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Council were members of the Board. The collector held a conference of the District Officials, Block Development Officers, Srivilliputtur and Sivakasi and the non-officials like the Members of Legislative Assembly, Chairman of Municipal Councils, President of the District Board, Members of Legislative Council and Members of Parliament. The proposals for the District Plan were discussed and the Plan was prepared.

*The Third Five-Year Plan:*—Consequent on the revision of the Community Development Programme, the Government directed that the overall plans should be approved in consultation with the District Development Councils. Accordingly the Plan for the District was prepared by the District Development Councils and submitted to the Government for approval.

The following table shows the amount expended on the major heads of development in the District under the Second Five-Year Plan <sup>1</sup>.

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1. Source : Special Tahsildar for District Gazetteer Ramanathapuram.

| <i>Major head of development.</i>                |  |  |  |  | <i>Total provision.</i> | <i>Actual expenditure.</i> |
|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1)  |  |  |  |  | (2)                     | (3)                        |
| (RUPEES IN LAKHS.)                               |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| <b>I. Agricultural production—</b> .. .. .       |  |  |  |  | 14.73                   | 7.90                       |
| Minor Irrigation Projects .. .. .                |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 73.09                      |
| Land development .. .. .                         |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 4.25                       |
| Animal Husbandary .. .. .                        |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 12.35                      |
| Dairying and Milk Supply .. .. .                 |  |  |  |  | 1.56                    | 3.42                       |
| Forests .. .. .                                  |  |  |  |  | 2.69                    | 3.59                       |
| Fisheries .. .. .                                |  |  |  |  | 5.43                    | 4.78                       |
| Community Project .. .. .                        |  |  |  |  | 108.07                  | 130.83                     |
| Co-operation .. .. .                             |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 5.15                       |
| <b>II. Irrigation and Power Projects</b> .. .. . |  |  |  |  | 111.00                  | 136.00                     |
| <b>III. Industry—</b>                            |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| Handloom .. .. .                                 |  |  |  |  | 20.87                   | 34.20                      |
| Small Scale Industries .. .. .                   |  |  |  |  | 0.04                    | 0.07                       |
| Handicrafts .. .. .                              |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 4.50                       |
| Village Industries .. .. .                       |  |  |  |  | 12.47                   | 8.91                       |
| <b>IV. Transport and Communication—</b>          |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| Roads.. .. .                                     |  |  |  |  | 50.00                   | 43.60                      |
| <b>V. Education—</b>                             |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| Education .. .. .                                |  |  |  |  | 57.56                   | 69.76                      |
| Technical Education .. .. .                      |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 0.27                       |
| <b>VI. Health—</b>                               |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| Water Supply—Urban .. .. .                       |  |  |  |  | 105.30                  | 8.27                       |
| Rural .. .. .                                    |  |  |  |  | 22.50                   | 33.66                      |
| Other Health Schemes .. .. .                     |  |  |  |  | 49.50                   | 39.90                      |
| <b>VII. Welfare of Backward Classes</b> .. .. .  |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 3.91                       |
| <b>VIII. Social Welfare</b> .. .. .              |  |  |  |  | 0.327                   | 0.070                      |
| <b>IX. Labour Welfare</b> .. .. .                |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 7.136                      |
| <b>X. Housing</b> .. .. .                        |  |  |  |  | 10.212                  | 16.594                     |
| <b>XI. Miscellaneous—</b>                        |  |  |  |  |                         |                            |
| Provision for Khadi.. .. .                       |  |  |  |  | ..                      | 51.83                      |

Of the various items of development programme in the Five Year Plans, the Community Development Programme needs special mention. The Community Development Programme in the Country has been acknowledged to be the most gigantically planned and governmentally administered programme of its kind in the history of the world. The Community Development Programme is essentially a people's programme and the execution of the works under the programme involves a contribution of the

people towards the cost of works. The contribution of the people may be in the shape of cash, labour or materials. When the Programme was launched by the inauguration of the first set of community projects in the country nearly nine years ago, Community Development was described as the method and Rural Extension as the agency through which the transformation of the social and economic life of the villages was to be initiated. During the intervening years, the tasks to be accomplished by the Community Development movement and the National priorities to be realised through it have come to be more precisely defined. At the same time, the concept of rural extension has in course of time enlarged into that of the *Panchayat Raj*, that is to say the development of a set of inter-connected democratic and popular institutions at the village, block and district levels in which the representatives of the people in the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, the District Development Councils and Co-operative organisations function with the support and assistance of the various development agencies of Government working together as a team<sup>1</sup>.

The Community Development Programme has been in operation in the State from 1952-53. In 1952-53 and 1953-54, the programme originally started in the form of community Projects and Community Development Blocks respectively, in selected areas. Later it was extended in the form of National Extension Service. The National Extension Service Scheme was launched in 1953 in areas in which the Rural Welfare Scheme was already in operation and in a few additional areas. Later the Programme was gradually extended to other areas of the State. The essential difference between the work in the Community Development Blocks and that under the National Extension Service Scheme was that in the National Extension Service Scheme, the stress was laid on the all round development of rural life and economy, while in the Community Development Block, the stress was laid on the intensive development of particular aspects of the rural life and economy. Therefore National Extension Service and Community Development were regarded as related aspects of one and the same Programme. Each Development Block was in the charge of a Block-Development Officer, who worked under the supervision of the District Collector. The Block Development Officer was assisted by the necessary technical and other personnel who worked in close co-ordination with the other departments of Government. Block Advisory Committees were also formed for formulating schemes of improvement and for reviewing the progress etc., in the Blocks. During the course of the Second Plan period certain important developments occurred in the operation of the Programme in the State. Prior to 1st April 1958, the Community Development Programme was worked in three stages of three years' duration each, viz., *Pre-intensive* (National Extension Service) *intensive* (Community Development), and *Post-intensive* (reverted

National Extension Service ). This distinction among the three stages was abolished with the revision in the programme from the 1st April, 1958 and was replaced by two stages, viz., *Stage I* and *stage II* each of five years' duration from 1st April 1958. According to the revised programme, the National Extension Service Blocks operating on the 1st April, 1958, were treated as Stage I Blocks from the date of their inauguration. The Community Development Blocks were allowed to operate as such till the completion of their period of operation as Community Development Blocks before their reversion to Stage II. All reverted National Extension Service Blocks were treated as stage II Blocks<sup>1</sup>.

In October 1960, the scheme of democratic decentralisation was started in the State with the organisation of Panchayat Unions. The introduction of the *Panchayat Raj* brought about a major change in the organisation of the Community Development Programme. The Panchayat Unions as new units of local self-Government have been entrusted with the administration of elementary education, Public Health, sanitation, etc. Therefore under the Panchayat Act, 1958, the Programmes of Community Development and allied schemes of agriculture, animal husbandry etc., have been entrusted to them. The Block Development Officers have begun to function as the Commissioners of the related Panchayat Unions. The Unions have also been given adequate technical and administrative staff at the cost of the Government for the various items of work entrusted to them. Thus by democratic decentralisation, the Panchayat Unions have been made to participate directly in the implementation of the Community Development Programme.

The Community Development Programme was introduced in the District with the inauguration of two Projects in 1953-54. They were the Srivilliputtur and the Sivakasi Blocks. The Firka Development Scheme had been launched as early as in 1946 in the Malli firka in the Srivilliputhur Taluk. This claimed attention for conceiving the Community Development Programme in the Srivilliputtur Block comprising the Srivilliputtur, Malli and Nathampatti firkas. Since Sivakasi, Kalayarkurichi and Ethirkottai firkas were contiguous to the Srivilliputtur Block, those three firkas were constituted into the Sivakasi Block. As already seen the programme which originally started in the form of Community Projects and Community Development Blocks was later extended in the form of National Extension Service. The history of the further course of the Programme in the State had already been narrated.

The following table shows the area, the number of villages, and the population covered by the Community Development and National Extension Service Programme in the District upto the year 1957.

1. Government of Madras : *Review of the Second Five-Year Plan—Madras State* 1961, page 26.



|  | Population. | Area in<br>sq. miles. | Number of<br>villages. |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|  | (1)         | (2)                   | (3)                    |
| <b>I. Community Development Blocks (1955) :</b>                    |             |                       |                        |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. .   | 1,00,464    | 180-00                | 43                     |
| Sivakasi .. .. .   | 92,468      | 192-70                | 42                     |
| <b>II. Community Development Blocks<br/>(April 1956) :</b>         |             |                       |                        |
| Rajapalayam .. .. .  | 1,02,582    | 168-63                | 43                     |
| <b>III. National Extension Service Block<br/>(1955) :</b>          |             |                       |                        |
| Singampunari .. .. .   | 65,177      | 148-00                | 43                     |
| <b>IV. National Extension Service Blocks<br/>(1956) :</b>          |             |                       |                        |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. .  | 79,360      | 274-00                | 114                    |
| Devakottai .. .. .   | 80,275      | 274-00                | 110                    |
| Kalaiyarkoil .. .. .   | 64,253      | 207-67                | 72                     |
| Kamudi .. .. .   | 65,448      | 243-12                | 58                     |
| <b>V. National Extension Service Blocks<br/>(1956) :</b>           |             |                       |                        |
| Virudhunagar .. .. .   | 85,482      | 188-39                | 51                     |
| Kariapatti .. .. .   | 55,238      | 222-95                | 98                     |
| <b>VI. National Extension Service Blocks<br/>(April 1957) :</b>    |             |                       |                        |
| Sattur .. .. .   | 79,005      | 156-33                | 47                     |
| Paramagudi .. .. .   | 68,582      | 119-55                | 41                     |
| <b>VII. National Extension Service Blocks<br/>(October 1957) :</b> |             |                       |                        |
| Kallal .. .. .   | 61,569      | 144-00                | 47                     |
| Manamadurai .. .. .  | 57,502      | 156-75                | 71                     |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .   | 45,633      | 163-63                | 63                     |
| Kadaladi .. .. .   | 47,044      | 241-11                | 56                     |

The table shows the particular stage (Stage I or stage II) <sup>1</sup> of the various Development Blocks in operation in the District as on 1-4-1964 :—

| Serial number and name of the<br>Block. | Stage. | Date.              |
|---|--------|--------------------|
| (1)                                     | (2)    | (3)                |
| 1. Srivilliputtur .. .. .               | II     | 1st April, 1964.   |
| 2. Watrap .. .. .                       | II     | Do.                |
| 3. Rajapalayam .. .. .                  | II     | 1st April, 1964.   |
| 4. Sivakasi .. .. .                     | II     | 1st April, 1964.   |
| 5. Vembakottai .. .. .                  | II     | 1st April, 1963.   |
| 6. Sattur .. .. .                       | II     | 1st April, 1963.   |
| 7. Virudhunagar .. .. .                 | II     | 1st October, 1962. |
| 8. Aruppukkottai .. .. .                | I      | 1st April, 1963.   |

1. The terms Stage I and Stage II are explained on page 542 above.

| <i>Serial number and name of the Block.</i> | <i>Stage.</i> | <i>Date.</i>       |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| (1)   | (2)           | (3)                |
| 9. Kariapatti .. .. .                       | II            | 1st October, 1962  |
| 10. Narikkudi .. .. .                       | I             | ....               |
| 11. Tiruchuli .. .. .                       | I             | 1st April, 1963.   |
| 12. Kamudi .. .. .                          | II            | 1st April, 1961.   |
| 13. Kadaladi .. .. .                        | II            | 1st October, 1962. |
| 14. Mudukulattur .. .. .                    | II            | Do.                |
| 15. Ramanathapuram .. .. .                  | I             | 1st April, 1960.   |
| 16. Tiruppullani .. .. .                    | I             | 1st April, 1963.   |
| 17. Mantapam .. .. .                        | I             | 1st October, 1959. |
| 18. Bogalur .. .. .                         | I             | 1st October, 1960. |
| 19. Paramagudi .. .. .                      | II            | 1st April, 1963.   |
| 20. Ilayangudi .. .. .                      | I             | 1st October, 1963. |
| 21. Manamadurai .. .. .                     | II            | 1st October, 1962. |
| 22. Tiruppuvanam .. .. .                    | I             | 1st April, 1962.   |
| 23. Kalaiyarkoil .. .. .                    | II            | 1st April, 1961.   |
| 24. Sivaganga .. .. .                       | I             | 1st October, 1963. |
| 25. Tiruppattur .. .. .                     | I             | Do.                |
| 26. Singampunari .. .. .                    | I             | 1st October, 1960. |
| 27. Kallal .. .. .                          | II            | 1st October, 1962. |
| 28. Sakcottai .. .. .                       | I             | 1st October, 1963. |
| 29. Devakottai .. .. .                      | II            | 1st October, 1961. |
| 30. Kannangudi .. .. .                      | II            | ....               |
| 31. Rajasingamangalam .. .. .               | I             | ....               |
| 32. Tiruvadanai .. .. .                     | II            | 1st October, 1961. |

**District Development Councils:**—In pursuance of the settled policy of the Government towards democratic decentralisation, the Government passed the Madras District Development Councils Act, 1958.

There are two District Development Councils in Ramanathapuram District, namely, East Ramanathapuram District Development Council and West Ramanathapuram District Development Council. The Collector is the Chairman for the two Development Councils. The elected representatives to the legislature from the District, the Chairman of the Panchayat Union and the District Officers are the members of the Councils. These Councils advise the Government on all matters concerning the activities of the Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils and Municipal Councils in their respective Districts. They also advise the Collector on all matters relating to the development of the economic sources of the District and the services maintained for promoting general, social and economic welfare of the District.

The West Ramanathapuram Development District consists of eleven Panchayat Unions situated in the Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Aruppukkottai taluks and the East Development District consists of twenty-one Panchayat Unions situated in the Mudukulattur, Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tiruvadanai and Tiruppattur taluks. The Collector is the Chairman of both

the District Development Councils. The Personal Assistant (Panchayat Development) to the Collector is the Secretary of the District Development Council concerned. The following table shows the number of non-official and official members in the Ramanathapuram District Development Councils:—

| <i>Name of the Development District.</i> |    |    | <i>Number of<br/>Non-Officials.</i> | <i>Number of<br/>Officials.</i> |
|--|----|----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| West Development District                | .. | .. | 25                                  | 20                              |
| East Development District                | .. | .. | 35                                  | 22                              |

To assist each District Development Council, the following five Standing Committees have been formed:—

Food and Agriculture,  
Industries and Labour,  
Public Works,  
Education and  
Health and Welfare (including Prohibition).

General Committees with the Collector as the Chairman have also been formed for the two District Development Councils to help them with the subjects other than those dealt with by the five standing Committees.

As the District Development Council functions as an advisory body to the Government, it reviews the work of the District Officers in regard to the implementation of the plan schemes. The Standing Committee concerned reviews the work in detail before the matter comes up before the District Development Council for its reviews. Each District Development Council meets about once in two months.

The Collector prepares the agenda for the meetings and communicates it to the members in advance. Important Government orders and instructions received from the Government which the Collector considers necessary to place before the District Development Council for the information of its members, are included in the agenda. Whenever new schemes are sanctioned for implementation, they are also included in the agenda for the opinion of the members. Whenever practical difficulties arise in the course of the implementation of new schemes, the views and suggestions of the members on them are also sought. Orders received from the Government and the Heads of Departments on the resolutions passed by the District Development Council are also included in the agenda for the information of the members. Subjects or resolutions moved by any member are also included in the agenda if they are admissible. Half-yearly progress reports obtained from the District Officers, are scrutinized, compiled and included in the agenda for review by the Council.

The discussion in the Councils of the District have always been very lively and useful. In order to popularise the activities of the District Development Councils, meetings have been held at various places of the District like Sivakasi, Srivilliputtur, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar.

The District has since been delimited into 32 Development Blocks for purposes of development. The Municipal areas in the District have been excluded while delimiting the Blocks. With the introduction of Panchayat Raj a phased programme for the constitution of Panchayat Unions was put through in the District as shown below:—

*Date of inauguration.*

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| First Batch of 7 Blocks .. .. .   | 2nd October, 1960. |
| Second Batch of 16 Blocks .. .. . | 14th April, 1961.  |
| Third Batch of 9 Blocks .. .. .   | 2nd October, 1961. |

The third batch comprised the blocks where National Extension Service Scheme was not introduced. Thus the entire District is now covered by Panchayat Unions.

The following table shows the Panchayat Unions in 1963 (Development Blocks) in the District:—

| <i>Name of taluk.</i> | <i>Name of the Panchayat Union.</i> | <i>Total Population (Census of 1961.)</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| (1)                   | (2)                                 | (3)                                       |
| Tiruppattur .. .. .   | Kallal .. .. .                      | 66,010                                    |
|                       | Singampunari .. .. .                | 72,120                                    |
|                       | Sakkottai .. .. .                   | 62,918                                    |
|                       | Tiruppattur .. .. .                 | 68,349                                    |
| Sivaganga .. .. .     | Sivaganga .. .. .                   | 74,632                                    |
|                       | Kalaiyarkoil .. .. .                | 64,940                                    |
|                       | Manamadurai .. .. .                 | 62,138                                    |
|                       | Tiruppuvanam .. .. .                | 66,885                                    |
| Tiruvadanai .. .. .   | Tiruvadanai .. .. .                 | 44,890                                    |
|                       | Devakaottai .. .. .                 | 49,909                                    |
|                       | Kannagudi .. .. .                   | 43,707                                    |
|                       | Rajasingamangalam .. .. .           | 51,786                                    |
| Paramagudi .. .. .    | Paramagudi .. .. .                  | 81,465                                    |
|                       | Bogalur .. .. .                     | 68,729                                    |
|                       | Ilayangudi .. .. .                  | 75,449                                    |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .  | Mudukulattur .. .. .                | 59,107                                    |
|                       | Kadaladi .. .. .                    | 84,662                                    |
|                       | Kamudi .. .. .                      | 90,394                                    |

| <i>Name of Taluk.</i> | <i>Name of Panchayat Union.</i> |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Total<br/>Population<br/>(Census of<br/>1961).</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| (1)                   | (2)                             |    |    |    |    |    | (3)   |
| Ramanathapuram .. ..  | Mantapam .. ..                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 68,887  |
|                       | Tirupullani .. ..               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 62,004  |
|                       | Ramanathapuram .. ..            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34,447  |
| Aruppukkottai .. ..   | Tiruchuli .. ..                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 56,764  |
|                       | Aruppukkottai .. ..             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53,370  |
|                       | Karaikkudi .. ..                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53,666  |
|                       | Kariapatti .. ..                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 55,306  |
| Sattur .. ..          | Vembakottai .. ..               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60,948  |
|                       | Sattur .. ..                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 67,071  |
|                       | Virudhunagar .. ..              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 71,856  |
|                       | Sivakasi .. ..                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 68,460  |
| Srivilliputtur .. ..  | Watrap .. ..                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 77,914  |
|                       | Rajapalayam .. ..               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 91,986  |
|                       | Srivilliputtur .. ..            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61,211  |

The appendix to the chapter gives in one view the salient features of the achievements of the Community Development Programme in the District.

#### PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT UNDER THE PLANS<sup>1</sup>.

The various development schemes launched and the progress registered in the various sectors of the district economy over the years are dealt with in detail under the relevant chapters like *Agriculture and Irrigation*, and *Industries*. Here certain broad features in the progress registered in certain of the important sectors of the District economy under the impact of the first and Second Five-Year Plans are briefly reviewed.

*Agriculture*:—That an expanding agricultural economy is essential to progress in all other spheres has been generally recognised. The First and Second Five-Year Plans in general aimed to increase agricultural production. In the District under the Second Five-Year Plan emphasis was mainly laid on raising the efficiency of the irrigation sources and increasing agricultural output by adopting various improved methods of agriculture, such as use of improved seeds, use of green manure and chemical manures, and the employment of improved methods of cultivation like the Japanese method of cultivation, tractor ploughing and reclaiming of waste lands, etc. The District is a vast plain. The climate is generally hot and dry. The irrigation sources which are generally precarious, get their supply during the north-east monsoon period. The soil is generally of a poor nature. Till recently, intensified efforts were not taken by the ryots due to the low seasonal ar<sup>1</sup>

1. Source : Government of Madras—Second Five Year Plan—Ramanathapuram District—Achievements of ten years, Tamil 1961.

poor soil conditions. Besides the zamindari system that was prevalent in the major part of the District did not provide the necessary incentive for the ryots to produce more. It is only now after the zamin had been taken over, that the ryots are resorting to improved methods of green manuring and chemical manuring and other improved methods of cultivation. The sustained efforts under the plans to increase agricultural production have yielded encouraging results. During the first two plan periods, agricultural production in the District has increased considerably. Of the total agricultural produce of the District, nearly 60 per cent comprises of paddy and the rest 40 percent of dry crops. In 1951, the production of rice in the District was about 62,000 tons. By 1961, the production had increased to about 2,02,000 tons. The production of other small crops (செறுதானியங்கள்) also had increased from about 52,690 tons in 1951 to about 1,41,380 tons in 1961. The production of cotton had increased from about 34,140 bales in 1951 to about 83,800 bales in 1961. The production of sugarcane (by weight of jaggery) had also increased from about 3,560 tons in 1951 to about 8,550 tons in 1961. So also the production of groundnut had increased from about 19,420 tons to about 43,700 tons over the period. One of the major components of the food production programme is the supply of improved seeds. During the First Plan period about 108 tons and during the Second Plan period about 375 tons of improved paddy seeds were distributed in the District. With regard to other dry crops, during the First Plan period about 24 tons and during the Second Plan period about 64 tons of improved strains of seeds were distributed. So also for the increased production of cotton, about 442 tons of improved strains of seeds during the First Plan period and about 884 tons during the Second Plan period were distributed. Another encouraging feature in the agricultural economy of the District in recent years, has been the rapidly increasing the use of fertilisers. In the District during the first two plan periods nearly 15,935 tons of chemical manures were distributed. Besides this during the same period about 1,16,249 tons of urban compost manure, 3,19,792 tons of rural compost manure and 479 tons of green manure were also distributed in the District. The use of improved agricultural implements had also considerably increased in the District. Nearly 12,000 improved implements were distributed in the District during the first two Plan periods through Governmental and non-Governmental agencies. During the period of the Second Plan in the District nearly 19,000 acres of land were ploughed with tractors and about 650 acres of land were levelled with bull dozers. Thus considerable extent of lands were brought under cultivation. The Japanese method of cultivation has also become popular in the District. This method is adopted in the District not only for cultivation of paddy, but also for the cultivation of other crops like sugar cane and cotton. During the First Plan Period, the Japanese method of cultivation was adopted in about 60,396 acres of land and in the Second Plan Period in about 1,79,393 acres of land.

*Irrigation*:—Adequate attention has also been paid to the development and improvement of irrigational facilities in the District during the first two Plan periods. For improving the irrigational facilities in the District in 1949-50, a Grow More Food Production wing was established at Sivaganga. It under took works of improvement to 956 tanks at a cost of Rs. 91.93 lakhs. By the end of the year 1955, 635 works were completed at a cost of Rs. 44.41 lakhs. In the year 1959, another Grow More Food Production Wing was started at Devakottai. Under the Second Five-Year Plan the total cost of all the major irrigation schemes proposed for the District amounted to Rs. 189.65 lakhs, of which the cost of the *Vaigai* Reservoir Scheme proportionate to the extent irrigated was estimated at Rs. 132 lakhs. The total cost of the repairs proposed to the minor irrigation sources of the District under the Second Plan was Rs. 214.46 lakhs. In the District during the First Plan period, the total area under irrigation under channels, tanks and wells amounted to 4,37,528 acres. By the end of the Second Plan period the corresponding area had increased to 6,40,364 acres.

*Animal Husbandary*:—The achievements in the implementation of schemes of animal husbandary and fisheries have also been encouraging in the District. In the Second Plan period a special drive was launched for livestock development and increasing the production of milk. In 1957, a cattle farm was opened in the Ramana-thapuram Taluk. In this farm nearly 1,906 acres of waste lands are being converted into cultivable lands. Of these lands, about 100 acres have been set apart for cultivation of dry crops and about 1,500 acres for purposes of grazing. Nearly 709 improved breeds of cattle are maintained in this farm, of which the *Kangayam* breed accounts for about 333. The farm is of immense help and value to the people of the District in disseminating improved and scientific methods of cattle development and maintenance. To improve the quality of cattle in the rural areas an artificial insemination centre was opened at Virdhunagar in 1957. Side by side with the improvement of cattle wealth, the Plans also provided for the opening of veterinary hospitals, first-aid centres, etc., besides adequate provision for the control of cattle diseases. Thus for instance, 2 veterinary hospitals, 4 first aid centres, 13 veterinary dispensaries and 8 minor veterinary dispensaries were opened in the District during the first two Plan periods. The provision made for the control of cattle diseases in the District in the first two Plans amounted to Rs. 1,06,000<sup>1</sup>.

During the Plan periods extension centres for the utilisation of bulls produced in key village areas were also established at various places in the District. To popularise schemes of development of animal husbandary among the people Cattle Shows were also held in the District. The District has the longest coastline among the districts of the State with good facilities for the development of fishing industry. The present type of fishing

nets, which are old fashioned get worn out soon and do not stand the strain involved in deep sea fishing. The trials conducted in this State have proved the efficiency of nylon nets in improving the catches. Among the various schemes under the Second Plan for the development of fisheries, the issue of nylon nets and improved hooks to fishermen at a subsidised cost was important one. In the District 13 fishermen co-operative societies were granted import licences for importing nylon threads to the value of about Rs. 2,60,000. Out of this cost of the thread, the Government bore 25 per cent as subsidy. Fish stalls were established at Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Rameswaram and Sivaganga. About 5 improved motor boats were distributed in the District to fishermen co-operative societies and individual groups of fishermen. These boats help fishermen to go a long distance on the seas and increase their catches. To collect fingerlings of both inland and foreign varieties and to protect and sell them, works were also started at 6 places. At Virudhunagar, Karaikkudi, Sivaganga and Pamban, nearly 7,63,35,107 fingerlings were collected and distributed to Fisheries Department Demonstration Tanks and other private individuals.

*Industries:*—Under the Plans, the District registered considerable development in the field of industries also. As the people of the District are mainly agriculturists subject to the vagaries of seasons, special attention was paid to the development of subsidiary occupations with a view to keep them employed in off-seasons. Under the Second Five-Year Plan, numerous schemes were proposed for the development of bee-keeping, poultry, village pottery, village oil industry, manufacture of palmgur, piggery farming, comb-making, carpentry, etc. Schemes were also prepared for the establishment of cottage type match industries. Various dispersed industries like blacksmithy, carpentry, manufacture of tiles and bricks, which cater to the basic needs of the people were also selected for development. Special mention may be made of the scheme for the supply of potter's wheel with ball-bearing mechanism to potters who are members of organised co-operative unions. The manufacture of fancy articles like baskets, hand bags, etc. out of palm-leaf, which is available in plenty in the District, was also developed. A fairly large number of families are engaged in this industry, which is carried on as a cottage industry. Under the Second Five-Year Plan a number of schemes for the development of cottage industries like poultry keeping, mat-making, (palmyrah leaf mats, palmyran baskets), salt factory, etc., was also drawn up.

Imparting of industrial training and formation of cottage industrial co-operative societies were also given due attention. A number of production cum training centres in various handicrafts like brush making, manufacture of handbags, etc., were established in the District at various places.



During the Second Plan period about 24 industrial co-operatives were formed in the District. At the beginning of the First Plan period in the District there were only about 50 weavers' co-operative societies. After the creation of the Cess Fund Scheme for the revival of handloom industry, 51 more societies were formed. The Khadi Industry had also progressed considerably. In the District at the beginning of the First Plan Period there were only about 1,000 spinners and 50 weavers in the Khadi industry exclusive of the number of persons working under the Government. In the Second Plan period the number of persons engaged in the Khadi industry rose to 21,700 spinners and 350 weavers.

The development of major industries was also not neglected during the Plan period. A number of spinning mills were started in the private sector. A Co-operative spinning mill was established at Srivilliputtur. Licences were granted for the starting of 5 more mills at Ramanathapuram, Kamuthakudy, Tiruvadanai, Manamadurai and Aruppukkottai. The Government of Madras also contributed towards the share capital of this co-operative spinning mill. At Thulukkappatti a cement factory was established with a capital of Rs. 1.5 crores. The maximum production capacity of this factory is expected to be about 600 tons of cement per day. The Government of Tamil Nadu contributed a crore of rupees towards the capital of this cement factory. Five weaving mills, of which one mill is for the manufacture of surgical cloth and another is for the manufacture of paper cone, were also started in the District. Match and other pyro-technique industry is one of the most important cottage and small scale industry of the District. To help this industry, a factory in the District for the manufacture of pyro-technical aluminum powder, at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs has been proposed. It is expected that this factory when established will meet to a great extent the raw material requirements of the pyro-technique industry of the District. Necessary sanction has also been accorded for the starting of a factory for the manufacture of paper boards at a cost of about Rs. 15 lakhs at Rajapalayam. It is expected that this factory will be able to produce about 1,700 tons of paper boards annually. An Industrial Estate has been established near Virudhunagar. Sanction has also been accorded for the establishment of another estate at Karaikkudi.

**Co-operatives:**—The organisation of co-operative societies in the District, which is most effective in improving rural conditions also received considerable encouragement under the Plans. As this District was generally an underdeveloped area, the co-operative movement had not made appreciable headway earlier. Therefore under the Second Five-Year Plan, special provision was made for the promotion of the co-operative movement in the District based on the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee for an integrated scheme of rural credit. The Co-operative movement in

the District has shown appreciable progress in recent years. At the beginning of the First Plan period there were only 376 co-operative credit societies in the District. By the end of the Second Plan period number of credit societies in the District had risen to 810. Most of the towns and villages in the District now enjoy the benefits of the co-operative movement. Based on the recommendations of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee, Rural Banks were created during the Second Plan period. In the District, by the end of the Second Plan period 20 such Banks were formed. A total number of 25 institutions of credit societies and rural banks in the District have constructed godowns with Governmental aid. Before the commencement of the First Five-Year Plan there were 9 Primary Sales Societies in the District. By the end of the Second Plan period the number had grown to 11. Besides these sales societies, a State Ware House branch was established at Rajapalayam. In the District, during the Second Plan period, two co-operative farming societies were also formed—one at Devathanam and the other at Kariyapatti. There was also considerable progress of the co-operative milk supply societies in the District during the Plan period. At the beginning of the First Plan period there were only 18 co-operative milk supply societies in the District. By the end of the Second Plan period, the number increased to 72. The *Full Finance Scheme* has also been successfully introduced in a few parts of the District.

*Communications:*—As the District was lacking in proper communication facilities, special attention was paid for their development. In 1950, before the commencement of the First Five-Year Plan, there were 1,388 miles of roads in the District, including 222 miles of municipal roads. During the First Five-Year Plan period, there was a considerable increase in the road mileage of the District under the Post-war Road Development Scheme and Local Development Schemes. During the Second Plan period, it was proposed to give to all villages with a population of 500 or more, roads connecting them with the main roads which were already in existence or may be constructed by the State. Importance was also given to the up-grading of the existing roads by gravelling or metalling and by black-topping or cement-concreting wherever necessary to meet the heavy traffic of lorries and buses. The following data reveal the considerable progress registered in the District in the field of communications. As already noted, excluding municipal roads, the total road mileage of the District at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan was 1,166. By the end of the First Plan period this road mileage increased to 1,502 and by the end of the Second Plan period it further increased to 1,735 miles. This mileage of 1,735 at the end of the Second Plan period was exclusive of the roads (220 miles in length) formed in the District under local Development Works and National Extension Service Scheme. During the first two Plan periods, Rs. 39 lakhs were spent in the District for the formation of a total length of 523 miles of new roads. During the same period, Rs. 4.19 lakhs were spent for black-topping a length of 9 miles of

roads and Rs. 15.66 lakhs for effecting improvements to a length of 124 miles of roads. Besides these, a length of 7 miles of roads was cement-concreted ; and 22 bridges were built at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs.

*Education:*—Under the Plans, education also received considerable encouragement in the District as the following figures will illustrate:—At the beginning of the First Plan period there were only 1,381 primary schools and 47 high schools in the District. The number of students in them were 148,569 and 19,476 respectively. During the First Plan period 291 primary schools and 192 high schools were opened. By the end of the Second Plan period, there were, 3,259 primary schools, 473 basic schools, 118 high schools and 13 training schools in the District. The number of students in the primary and high schools were 2,96,991 and 21,192 respectively.

*Medical and Public Health Services:*—In the first two Plan periods, the medical and public health services in the District also developed considerably. At the beginning of the First Plan period there were 19 hospitals and 39 dispensaries in the District. By the end of the Second Plan period their numbers rose to 23 and 42 respectively. In the Plans, special emphasis was also laid on the provision of medical facilities to all remote rural parts by opening rural dispensaries. At the end of the First Plan period there were 33 rural dispensaries in the District. By the end of the Second Plan period their number rose to 56. Besides these in the Second Plan period in the area covered by the National Extension Service Scheme ten primary health centres were also opened. In the First Plan period, there were only 34 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the District (maintained by the District Board). At the end of the Second Plan period the total number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the District amounted to 118. Of the public health measures adopted in the District, the scheme for the eradication of Malaria occupies an important place. It is expected that when the scheme is successfully completed by the end of the Third Plan period, the disease would have been completely eradicated from the District. To prevent tuberculosis B.C.G. vaccination was also provided throughout the District. By the end of the Second Plan period, about 148,904 persons were tested for tuberculosis infection and 37,379 persons were vaccinated under this scheme in the District. A District Public Health Laboratory proposed under the Second Five-Year Plan had begun functioning from May 1961. It undertakes various pathological, bio-chemical, serological and microscopical investigations. The Plan also provided for the provision of protected water-supply in certain areas of the District.

*Social Amenities:*—The Plans did not ignore the development of social amenities in the District. The importance of providing facilities for the various sections of the community to come together and move freely with one another was recognised in the Plans and adequate provision was made for providing various amenities like

reading rooms, radio sets, community centres, parks, play grounds etc. For such amenities contribution was also readily forthcoming from the villagers. A number of Youth Clubs/Farmers Unions and *Mahila Samities* were also organised in the District. In the Second Plan period, 943 Youth Clubs/Farmers Unions were started in the District, besides 305 *Mahila Samities*.

From the brief account given above it may well be seen that during the ten years of planned development under the first and Second Five-Year Plans, the District had registered considerable progress in almost every branch of social and economic life. The Third Five-Year Plan which had gone into action since 1961, would further increase the social and economic progress of the District. The period of planned development is indeed a memorable period in the economic history of the District exhibiting a trend of continuous endeavour for the greater prosperity and welfare of all sections of the people. Under the impact of the Five-Year Plans, the District is on the high road to prosperity and the pace of development is also rapid

#### APPENDIX.

##### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

(Selected indicators of achievements).

| Serial number and item.              |                                   | Unit.    | Achievements during the       |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                      |                                   |          | Second Plan period (1956-61). | First year of the Third Plan period (1961-62). |
| (1)                                  | (2)                               |          | (3)                           | (4)  |
| <b>Agriculture—</b>                  |                                   |          |                               |  |
| 1.                                   | Improved seeds distributed ..     | M.T.     | 9,368                         | 1,292  |
| 2.                                   | Chemical fertilisers distributed. | "        | 17,311                        | 6,041  |
| 3.                                   | Improved implements distributed   | "        | 15,174                        | 4,354  |
| 4.                                   | Compost pits dug .. ..            | Numbers. | 50,207                        | 18,219   |
| 5.                                   | Agricultural demonstrations held. | "        | 53,594                        | 6,395  |
| <b>Animal Husbandry :</b>            |                                   |          |                               |  |
| 6.                                   | Improved animals supplied ..      | Numbers  | 962                           | 266  |
| 7.                                   | Improved birds supplied           | "        | 10,097                        | 3,747  |
| 8.                                   | Animals castrated .. ..           | "        | 48,889                        | 14,571   |
| <b>Health and Rural Sanitation :</b> |                                   |          |                               |  |
| 9.                                   | Drinking water wells constructed  | Numbers. | 1,120                         | 338  |
| 10.                                  | Drinking water wells renovated.   | "        | 1,362                         | 153  |
| 11.                                  | Rural latrines constructed ..     | "        | 4,157                         | 450  |
| 12.                                  | Drains constructed .. ..          | Metre.   | 105,239                       | 13,378   |
| 13.                                  | Soakage pits constructed ..       | Numbers. | 13,208                        | 2,034  |

(M.T.—Metric Tonne).

1. Source: Director of Statistics, Madras.

| <i>Serial number and item.</i>         | <i>Unit.</i>  | <i>Achievements during the</i>       |   |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|  |               | <i>Second Plan period (1956-61).</i> | <i>First year of the Third Plan period (1961-62).</i> |
| (1)                                    | (2)           | (3)                                  | (4)   |
| <i>Social Education :—</i>             |               |                                      |   |
| 14. Adults made literate .. ..         | Numbers.      | 40,999                               | 6,574   |
| 15. Youth Clubs/Farmers Union started. | „             | 943                                  | 99  |
| 16. Mahila Samities started .. ..      | „             | 305                                  | 112   |
| <i>Communications :—</i>               |               |                                      |   |
| 17. New kutch roads constructed.       | Kilometre.    | 546                                  | 245   |
| <i>People's Contribution :—</i>        |               |                                      |   |
| 18. Labour contribution .. ..          | Rs. in lakhs. | 27.50                                | 2.84  |
| 19. Cash and other contribution        |               | 28.53                                | 2.22  |



## CHAPTE X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

This District consisting of 9 taluks has been divided into four divisions, viz., Devakottai, Sivakasi, Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga, for the purpose of general and revenue administration. Each of these divisions comprises the following taluks :—

| <i>Divisions.</i>   | <i>Headquarters of the Division.</i> | <i>Taluks comprised in the Division.</i>              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Sivakasi .. ..    | Sivakasi .. ..                       | 1. Srivilliputtur.<br>2. Sattur.<br>3. Aruppukkottai. |
| 2 Sivaganga .. ..   | Sivaganga .. ..                      | 1. Sivaganga.<br>2. Paramagudi.                       |
| 3 Ramanathapuram .. | Ramanathapuram ..                    | 1. Mudukulattur.<br>2. Ramanathapuram.                |
| 4. Devakottai .. .. | Devakottai .. ..                     | 1. Tiruppattur.<br>2. Tiruvadanai.                    |

The District Collector is the head of the District and is vested with the task of general administration of the District. He is the Chief Officer in charge of the revenue administration and is responsible for the collection of land revenue and other dues to the Government such as arrears of revenue, etc. The Collector is also responsible for the proper implementation of the various development schemes at the district level. He is also in charge of the Treasuries and is responsible for the maintenance of land records, maps of villages, etc. As the Chief Executive Officer in the District, the Collector is responsible for the maintenance of law and order and the smooth running of the administration at the district level. He is the Chief Executive Magistrate in the District, and exercises powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure and the other special Acts. After the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive in 1951, some of the judicial powers of the Collector have been transferred to the District Magistrate. In carrying out the administration of the District, the Collector is assisted by various officers. Besides, he is assisted in the revenue administration by Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Village Officers. The following are the officers who assist the Collector at the District Level :—

| <i>Officers.</i>                                  | <i>Number of posts.</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 District Revenue Officer .. ..                  | 1                       |
| 2 Personal Assistant to the Collector .. ..       | 1                       |
| 3 Additional Personal Assistant to the Collector. | 1                       |

| <i>Officers.</i>   | <i>Number o<br/>posts.</i> |
|--|----------------------------|
| 4. Personal Assistant to the Collector (Planning and Development), Ramanathapuram East Development District. | 1                          |
| 5. Personal Assistant to the Collector (Planning and Development), Ramanathapuram West Development District. | 1                          |
| 6. Revenue Divisional Officer, Devakottai ...  | 1                          |
| 7. Revenue Divisional Officer, Sivaganga ...   | 1                          |
| 8. Revenue Divisional Officer, Ramanathapuram.   | 1                          |
| 9. Revenue Divisional Officer, Sivakasi ... ..   | 1                          |
| 10. Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Ramanathapuram at Madurai.                                  | 1                          |
| 11. Special Deputy Collector (Railway Land Acquisition), Ramanathapuram at Madurai.                          | 1                          |
| 12. Authorised Officer (Special Deputy Collector), for Land Ceiling, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.              | 1                          |
| 13. District Welfare Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.   | 1                          |

*Judicial*:—The evolution of the judicial system in the District and its present organisational set up are given in the chapter on “Law and Order and Justice”. Till 1951, the Collector of the District attended to the following functions under the Criminal Procedure Code and other statutes.

(1) functions which are ‘Police’ in their nature as for instance, the handling of unlawful assemblies ;

(2) functions of an administrative character, as for instance, issue of licences for fire arms, etc.; and

(3) functions which are essentially judicial, as for instance, the trial of criminal cases.

After the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the purely judicial functions under the category (3) above have been transferred from the Collector and Magistrates subordinate to him to a new set of judicial officers who are under the control of the High Court. The functions under (1) and (2) above are still continued to be discharged by the Collector and the Revenue Officers.

The Collector, the Revenue Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar and the Deputy Tahsildar are called the Executive Magistrates who attend to the functions relating to police administration. The Collector by virtue of his office retains some of the powers of a District

Magistrate and is an Additional District Magistrate. The District Revenue Officer has been appointed in order to give relief to the Collector in the discharge of his duties. The allocation of work between the Collector and the District Revenue Officer is laid down in Appendix A, B and C to G.O. Ms. No. 1434, Public (Special), dated 25th June 1962. The District Revenue Officer is vested with Magisterial powers. He is an Additional District Magistrate class II.

The Judicial Magistrates consist of the following classes among them : (a) District Magistrate, (b) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, (c) Additional First Class Magistrates, and (d) Second Class Magistrates (Sub-Magistrates). The District Magistrate has general administrative Superintendence and Judicial control over the Sub-Divisional and Additional First Class Magistrates. Administratively and judicially the District Magistrates are subordinate to the High Court. But the Government have the powers to appointment, transfer and of investiture of magisterial powers. The Government act on the advice of the High Court. The Court of the District Magistrate is inspected annually by the District and Session Judge who acts as the nominee of the High Court. The District and Sessions Judge also inspects the Court of all the Judicial Magistrates in the District.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrates dispose of First Class suits and appeals on Second and Third Class suits. Additional First Class Magistrates function within the local limits of large areas and broadly speaking, they help the District Magistrate in disposing of cases arising out of the area within the direct jurisdiction of the District Magistrate. The Second Class Magistrates entertain complaints and dispose of cases of a second and third class nature arising within their respective jurisdiction. Honorary Magistrates whether exercising their powers singly or as members of a Bench, are also under the administrative control of the Judicial District Magistrate. The following Judicial Officers are functioning in the District:

| <i>Officers.</i> |   |     |     |     | <i>Number of posts.</i> |
|------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1.               | District and Sessions Judge             | ... | ... | ... | 1                       |
| 2.               | District Magistrate                     | ... | ... | ... | 1                       |
| 3.               | Sub Judge and Assistant Sessions Judges | ... | ... | ... | 3                       |
| 4.               | Sub Divisional Magistrate...            | ... | ... | ... | 1                       |
| 5.               | District Munsifs                        | ... | ... | ... | 7                       |
| 6.               | Additional First Class Magistrates      | ... | ... | ... | 2                       |

**Police :—**The District Collector is primarily responsible for the maintenance of Law and Order in the District. The Ramanathapuram District is included in the Southern Police Range, under the general control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range. The Police Force in the District is under the immediate



charge of the District Superintendent of Police. The District has been divided into five sub-divisions, each sub-division under the control of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. These sub-divisions have been divided into 13 circles, each circle being controlled by an Inspector of Police. The following are the police officers who are under the control of the Collector :—

| <i>Officers.</i>   | <i>Number of posts.</i> |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.            | 1                       |
| 2. Personal Assistant to Superintendent of Police ...              | 1                       |
| 3. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram Sub-division.   | 1                       |
| 4. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kamudi ...                     | 1                       |
| 5. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mudukulattur.                  | 1                       |
| 6. Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sivakasi ...                | 1                       |
| 7. Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sivaganga ...               | 1                       |
| 8. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Armed Reserve) Ramanathapuram. | 1                       |

*Other Offices—District Level :—*A number of Officers are functioning in the District who are administratively under the control of their respective Heads of Departments. The designation of these Officers will give a fair idea of their functions in the District :—

#### LIST OF DISTRICT OFFICERS.

1. District Collector, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
2. District Revenue Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
3. The District Judge, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
4. The District Magistrate (Judicial), Ramanathapuram at Devakottai.
5. The Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
6. The Authorised Officer (Land Ceiling), Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
7. Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
8. Special Deputy Collector (Railway Land Acquisition) Virudhunagar-Manamadurai Railway Lines, Madurai.
9. District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram Central at Madurai.
10. District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram West at Virudhunagar.

11. District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram East at Devakottai.
12. Special District Educational Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
13. Regional Transport Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
14. District Health Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
15. District Medical Officer, Ramanathapuram.
16. District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram at Karaikkudi.
17. Assistant Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
18. District Employment Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
19. District Registrar, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
20. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
21. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Sivaganga.
22. Special Deputy Registrar, Credit and Marketing Societies, Srivilliputtur.
23. Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
24. Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce, Sivaganga.
25. Commercial Tax Officer, Virudhunagar.
26. District Veterinary Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
27. District Khadi Officer, Ramanathapuram at Paramagudi.
28. Assistant Director of Fisheries, Sivaganga.
29. District Statistical Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
30. Treasury Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
31. Officer-in-charge, No. I, Survey Party, Sivaganga.
32. Officer-in-charge, No. III, Survey Party, Ramanathapuram.
33. Grain Purchase Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
34. Executive Engineer (Public Works Department), Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
35. Divisional Engineer (Highways and Rural works), Ramanathapuram at Sattur.
36. Divisional Engineer (Highways and Rural Works), Ramanathapuram East at Sivaganga.
37. Executive Engineer (Food Production), Sivaganga.
38. Executive Engineer (Food Production), Devakottai.
39. District Agricultural Officer, Sattur.
40. District Agricultural Officer, Sivaganga.
41. Special District Agricultural Officer, Sivaganga.

42. Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Mechanical), Sivaganga.
43. Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Soil Conservation Scheme), Aruppukkottai.
44. Special Deputy Director of Agricultural (Coconut Development), Ramanathapuram.
45. Village Industries Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.
46. Labour Officer, Virudhunagar.
47. Superintendent, Ramanathapuram District Livestock Farm, Chettinad.
48. District Registrar of Assurance, Ramanathapuram at Madurai.

**CENTRAL.**

1. Income-tax Officers, Virudhunagar-3.
2. Income-tax Officers, Karaikkudi-3.
3. Superintendent of Post Offices, Ramanathapuram.
4. Inspector of Explosives, Sivakasi.
5. Superintendent, Customs Preventive Circle, Ramanathapuram.
6. Assistant Collector of Central Excise, Sivakasi.

## CHAPTER XI

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

On the eve of the application of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act XXVI of 1948 to the estate areas of this District, the District consisted of mostly zamindari and whole inam villages, the major part of which was unsurveyed and unsettled.

*History of Land Revenue Administration:*—The Tirunelveli District of which Ramanathapuram formed a part was a distinct region of the Pandya kingdoms from very early times. Agriculture was the main occupation in the District throughout and the Pandyan rulers of the First Empire relied on land revenue as their main source of income. There is no reliable source from which the history of the land revenue administration may be reconstructed. But it was clear that under the early Pandyan Kings (650 A.D. onwards) there was well recognised precept that it was the duty of the rulers to protect the cultivators and maintain peace so that the cultivators could carry on their work without difficulty. For the performance of this duty of maintaining law and order the Kings claimed a share of the gross produce from the land. This share of the tax on land was fixed after a careful consideration of the fertility of the soil and the average yield for the previous three or four years. Lands presented to Brahmins and temples with the rights of tenancy (*Karammai*) and landlordship (*Miyatchi*) were exempted from taxation. The land tax usually amounted to one-sixth of the produce as laid down by *Manu* in the *Dharma Sastras*. But sufficient information is not available regarding the methods followed during those times in conducting land survey and in fixing the assessment on land.

Tirunelveli region along with the rest of Pandyan Kingdom was brought under the rule of the imperial Cholas from about 925 A.D. till the beginning of the 13th century. Land revenue administration under the Cholas marks an important landmark in the history of revenue administration in the District. The land revenue administration as introduced by the Cholas was a forerunner of modern land system as it contained important tenets of the present land revenue administration. It was very well realised by the Chola Kings that a complete and accurate survey of lands should precede the fixation of assessment of land. The first regular survey of land was undertaken in the reign of Rajaraja the Great (in 1002 A.D.) The survey was conducted under the supervision of the *Senapati* by name *Ulagalandan*, probably so named on account of his supervision over the survey work. The important measurements that

were used for the survey of lands were *Ulagalanda Kol*, *Sirrambalakol* and *Pangittakol* which were about 16 spans in length. There were also instances of resurvey of lands from time to time, e.g., in the reign of Kulotunga I. This was perhaps necessitated by the discrepancies that had crept into the survey.

Inscription of the Chola Kings refer to some revenue units like the *Veli*, *Ma*, *Kuli*, *Mukkani*, *Araikkani*, *Muntrigai* etc. *Veli* was the largest revenue unit and it was divided into smaller units like *Ma*, *Kuli*, etc. *Ma* was one twentieth of a *Veli* and it was the standard unit for assessment. The Chola Kings fixed the rates of assessment after the careful survey and classification of land. In fixing the rates, the fertility of the soil, the location of the villages in which the land was situated, the tenure of land, the kind of crop cultivated and the total yield were taken into consideration. The land tax was fixed according to the quality (*taram*) of the lands. The land tax, under the Cholas was known as *ninrairai* (fixed tax). The Land tax was probaly fixed at one sixth of the produce. But there were instances of periodical revisions of the tax. Remissions were made in times of adversity like natural causes such as floods, drought, etc. Distinction was made between paddy lands, waste lands and forest reclamation for fixing the rates of assessment. Certain lands were even wholly or partly exempted from being taxed. The *Devadana* lands gifted to temples, *brahmadeva* and *salabhoga* lands given to the learned brahmins and the *virabhoga* and *padai parru* lands gifted to great soldiers and heroes on battles were wholly exempted from taxation.

There were different types of land ownership under the Chola which regulated the relationship between the landlords and the tenants. Of all, three types were noteworthy, viz., (1) individual ownership of land by which the State directly received land tax from the owner of the land, who was then known as "*Iraikudigal*" (2) *Melavaram* or tenancy cultivation under which several tenants were employed by the landlord in cultivating his lands, in return for the right to cultivate the lands, the tenants paid the *melavaram* to the landlord ; (3) peasant proprietorship variously called as (a) *vellan vagai* by which lands were held by pesants on a ryotwari basis ; (b) service tenure held by persons employed in the royal household or in the temples ; (c) *devadana* lands under which the temples were the landlords employing tenants for cultivating lands ; (d) *brahmadeva* lands exclusively belonging to the brahmins of the locality to whom they had been gifted ; (e) *salabhoga* lands held by persons under eleemosynary tenure and (f) *virabhoga* or *padaiparru* lands gifted to men of heroism and were tax free. There were also provision for transfer of lands from one tenure to another whenever necessity arose.

Land tax was collected both in kind and in cash. It was either directly collected by the state or through an intermediary body, the village assembly, known as *sabha*, *nagaram*, or *ur*. Collection of

land tax through the village assemblies was commonly prevalent, in the District, during the Chola period. These bodies were also entrusted to carry on the land revenue administration.

Under the Pandyas of the Second Empire (between 12th and 14th centuries A.D.) the same system of land revenue administration was continued except for certain minor changes to suit the circumstances, the inscriptions of the period refer to several dues levied upon cultivable lands viz. *kadamai*, *antaravam*, *viniyogam* etc. Some of the inscriptions throw light on the rates of these dues on lands. The *kadamai* was generally fixed at three *kalams* on each *ma* of land yielding not less than 40 *kalams*. In fixing the rates of assessment the nature of the soil and the crops raised were taken into consideration. For wet lands the rate of assessment (*viniyogam*) was one *tuni*, equal to four *kurunis* or *marakals* of paddy. For dry lands it was half *tiramam* (dramma coin).

Land tax continued to be the main-stay of the State exchequer under the Nayaks of Madura who ruled over Tirunelveli region. During the Nayak rule, the revenue administration was organised in such a way that the land revenue was collected without much difficulty. The *maniyakaran* or *ambalakaran* was the village revenue officer who was in charge of collecting the land revenue and transmitting it to his higher officer, the head of the *makanam*, who in turn sent it to the king's treasury. Half of the produce from the land was collected as land tax during this period. The land tax was generally paid in cash.

*The Mohammedan Period:*—When the District was annexed to the territories of the Nawab of Arcot, the English who subscribed to all those ventures arrived at a peshkash settlement with the two major zamindaris Sivaganga and Ramnad, and experimented with various systems of revenue settlement in the two free taluks of Srivilliputtur and Sattur.

The records preserved by the Nawabs reveal some important details of the revenue administration of the District during the period that it was, nominally at least, under the control of the Nawab of Arcot. Dry land contributed a very small proportion of the revenue and was comparatively little accounted of. The usual procedure was to hand over such lands to the ryots of the village for a lump sum called *kattukuthagai*, leaving it to them to apportion the amount amongst themselves according to the extent of each man's cultivation. In regard to the wet lands, which were the object of chief interest to the Government the practice in almost every year, from 1739 to 1800, had been to divide the produce between the Cirkar and the cultivators. The apparent exception to this rule was the period 1760 to 1763 when under the management of Muhammad Yusuf Khan, the assessment was collected in money according to current prices. As, however, this method consisted simply in handing over to the cultivators to sell the grain as it was cut, it could scarcely be called a rent.

Muhammed Yusuf Khan was apparently an exception. "While he ruled those provinces", says Colonel Fullarton, "his whole administration denoted vigour and effect. His justice was unquestioned, his word unalterable; his measures were happily combined and firmly executed, the guilty had no refuge from punishment. His maxim was 'that the labourer and the manufacturer should be the favourite children of the Circar', because they afford strength and comfort to the public parent; but that the Polygar and the Colliery, though equally entitled to the truth and justice, have no pretention to indulgence, because they are the worthless prodigals who waste their own means and ravage those of others."

*Beginnings of English interference:*—The earliest interference of the civil officers of the East India Company in the revenue administration of the District occurred in 1781, when, by treaty with the Nawab, the revenue of the Carnatic was assigned to the Company and "Receivers of Assigned Revenues" were appointed and sent to the District. The Nawab's renters still continued during 1781-82, and, though nominally subordinate to the "Receivers", these "ministers of public exaction" paid scant heed to the orders of their superiors. In 1783, the Company's "receiver" or "Superintendent", Irwin, supplanted the renter and assumed full control for two years of the revenues of the District. In 1790 and 1791, under the "Assumption" Mr. Benjamin Torin as "Collector of Tinnevelly and the dependent Poligars", occupied a similar position. The tyranny of the renter however outlived all these changes. In 1800, the year before Tinnevelly passed to the Company, Major Macaulay who was commanding Palamcottah, was surprised to receive reports of scarcity of grain. On enquiry it was found that the villages round Palamcottah had been mortgaged by the Nawab to an European adventurer and that he and his six companions were holding up the grain of the whole District. The country was swarming with dubashes and "conocopolies" gauge of "badge peons" and guards of sepoys and number of defaulters had been thrown into prison by these tyrants. Macaulay gave four of the principal offenders the option of going to jail or to Madras; and they chose the latter. Government, to whom Macaulay reported his action, entirely approved his efforts "to frustrate the machinations of interested and unprincipled individuals who fatten on the spoils of an artificial famine, in the extorted wealth of the people and in the wreck of public prosperity."

*Cession to the Company—Mr. Lushington's settlement:*—When Lushington took charge of the District in August, 1801, the *kar* crop was on the ground; and, though anxious to form a village settlement, he decided, with a view to collect all possible information with regard to outturn and prices, to keep the cop under *amani*. He revived in fact the method that had been followed from 1793 to 1799. The *pisanam* crop was dealt with in the same way.

n regard to the dry lands, money collections were made in accordance with the numberless rates and measurements which had long existed. Their treatment was from the outset different from that of the wet lands.

*The Wet Lands:*—The Collector toured through the District and started a rough survey of the wet lands (completed apparently in 1805) he made advances to ryots for their *pisanam* cultivation, a pernicious, but apparently necessary practice, which persisted till 1856. Judged by the fact that it showed an increase of revenue over the previous faslis of 22 per cent, the settlement of 1211 was an eminently successful one. In faslis 1213 and 1214 the same system was continued, with the very slight modification that for the *Pisanam* crop about half the assessment was received in money; in other words, the ryots sold their paddy to Government at its estimated value in money and then paid their kists from the price received.

*The Amani System:*—It is difficult now to conceive the vexatiousness of an *amani* management. What happened apparently was this. As soon as the crop began to ripen, the country was flooded with a host of *sibbendy* peons, who proceeded to measure the extent of actual cultivation and to form an estimate of the expected produce. In the case of *pisanam* crop this process began in February or March and the "settlement" was in consequence not completed till May or June. By this time the *kar* cultivation was beginning, and the *sibbenay* staff has now to set to work to stimulate the ryots to cultivate their fields and then to measure up the cultivation as it progressed. The *amani* staff scarcely left the village at all throughout the year. The sircar share in *pisanam* was three fifths and the practice soon established itself of requiring payment in money for this crop. The contribution was in the first instance received in grain; and this was kept under guard until the ryots had disposed of their share. This they had to do with all possible speed in order to be able to pay the kists, by the end of June. The grain market, was glutted, and ryots had to content themselves with a price lower than that at which the sircar share had on an estimation made earlier in the year, been commuted. The glut soon subsided, and Government whose granaries had been stocked with the produce of the preceding *kar* crop, was able to sell at a profit. For all that the ryots apparently clung to the system, and received with coldness a suggestion made in 1803 that money rents should be introduced. They had no capital and the lease variation in the season might spell ruin for them, if Government withdrew from the monopoly of grain; The ryots realised that the money-value of grain would fall as home-grown paddy was very cheap and was actually being undersold by imports from Bengal.

*Hodgson's deputation:*—The rival merits of the ryotwari system and a system of rents was under discussion in high quarters, and in 1807 Hodgson, a Member of the Board of Revenue, was sent on deputation to the District to examine the



local revenue system. He sent up an exhaustive report (reference has already been made to it), which concluded with a strong recommendation in favour of a system of village leases. The contracts with the ryots should, he considered, be made for a period of three or five years ; and if the ryots declined them, "mittadars" might be brought into rent villages either singly or in groups.

*Triennial village leases faslis 1218-1220*:—The Government accepted the recommendation and directed the introduction from 1808-1809 of a system of village rents for three years (faslis 1218-1220). The difficulty was to find a figure on which to base this rent; revenue had fluctuated from year to year, and as about one-fourth of the revenue was usually paid after the close of the fasli, the receipts of one year were mixed up with those of another. The rates of lease were finally fixed in April 1809, and as it was obvious that the ryots could expect to get but little for their grain in the few remaining months of fasli, the rents were put at a low figure. In the first year the revenue fell by more than a lakh below the average of the six preceding faslis.

*The decennial lease*:—The system, however, was evidently considered satisfactory enough; for in 1811 the Government ordered the introduction of a decennial village-rent, intending thus to pave the way for the establishment of permanent leases. The court of Directors, on learning of these arrangements, strongly disapproved and directed that the system of village-leases should be withheld. They expressed their great surprise that the Board of Revenue, who had issued circular instructions on the subject to Collectors, should have sanctioned such an arrangement and should have assumed such "extraordinary and unwarrantable discretion." The decennial lease had been actually introduced in fasli 1222, (1812-13) : and the Madras Government pointed out in reply that it was impracticable at any rate in the case of the wet lands, to adopt a ryotwari system. They were prepared to follow such a system in regard to dry lands.

Ninety per cent of the wet villages accepted the lease in the first year, and in the next year the *amani* system had almost disappeared for a time. An extension of cultivation was followed in 1817 by an almost unprecedented slump in the price of grain, and heavy balance of kist beyond the fasli became the rule. But the most distressing feature of the system to modern minds was the absolute subjection to a few rich plunderers, which was the lot of the mass of the peasant population. "The village," wrote the Collector "was entirely in the hands of the karnam and mirasdars. If their exactions were tolerably moderate, the ryot was told that the demand against them was not more than the amount of rent of the lands he held. If this did not satisfy him, he was told that so much was for villagers charges; and if this again appeared inadequate to the amount, he was informed that the charges had been unusually swelled by bribes to the taluk

and Husur servants to procure some general remission of avert some intended addition to the beriz of the village of to purchase some other advantage to the community ”.

*Attempts at a ryotwari system:*—In 1815 the most positive orders directing the discontinuance of rents and the introduction of ryotwari system, reached the Madras Government, and in 1817 a definite attempt was made to introduce a ryotwari settlement in a wet village—Perunkulam (Srivaikuntam Taluk). A survey and classification of the lands were made, but the ryots absolutely declined to accept the arrangement. They demanded first, that the assessment should be fixed at a figure 25 per cent below the average rates imposed by the decennial lease, and, secondly (it is interesting to note), that the *kavalgars* should be required to make good the value of all stolen properties. The people of Vallanad began to realise that the decennial lease had ruined them and attempted to form a kind of ryotwari settlement among themselves. They found the remedy, however, worse than the disease and, in common with an increasingly large number of other villages, resolved to recur to the old *amani* system. The mirasidars of Sermadevi fled the country to Travancore ; and even after the days of the decennial lease were over they could only be coaxed into returning by a promise from the Collector that he would rebuild their houses. The Board, adhering to its old position, made a last protest against the introduction of a system which, in their opinion, threatened to break up the community of interest on which the village system depended. “To dissolve this unity of interest and common stock of labour by requiring each to take, instead of the share which he possessed and owned, a defined part of the whole land of the village, would not be very different from dissolving a joint Stock Company in England, and requiring each proprietor to trade upon this own portion of it in order that it might be separately taxed.”

*The Olungu Settlement:*—The decennial lease ran its full course to fasli 1231 and was succeeded by a system which, for convenience was known as the *olungu* settlement. The instructions were briefly to this effect. First of all, the quantity of the *melvaram* or Government share for the year in each village was to be fixed and then commuted into money, either at the “Standard price” or at a figure which, according to variations in the current selling price of the year, should be a certain percentage above or below the standard price, thus ; if the selling price of the year should not have risen ten per cent or fallen five percent, in comparison with the standard price, then the commutation rate should be fixed at the standard price. If it should have risen 11 percent, the calculation should be made at 1 per cent above the standard. If it should have fallen 6 percent, the commutation rate should be calculated at a price 1 per cent below the standard. The settlement was to be made with “each individual mirasidar” unless any of them did not raise cultivation ;

and in that case it was to be made with "the cultivating ryot". If both mirasidars and ryots declined the terms, a stranger might be brought into contract.

The Collector pointed out several objections and difficulties involved in the system, and the Board vouchsafed the unanswerable reply that he did not understand it. The method by which the "standard price" and the rate of *melvaram* were to be arrived at had not been explained; and when the Collector reported that for fasli 1235 he had adopted, with reference to actual calculation, the assumed produce of seven *amani* years (faslis 1211 to 1227) as the basis on which to estimate the *melvaram* and for the "standard price" had adopted the average selling price (Rs. 2—11—4 per kottai) of a number of years during which the decennial lease was in force, the Board said that the settlement had been made "more in conformity with the instructions". An apparent, but by no means real, reform consisted in the fact that, while *muchilikas* or agreements were now, as a rule, obtained from the mirasidars or leading landowners, pattas were from 1826 onwards issued to individual ryots, "limiting the demand against them". The head ryots still remained responsible to Government for the kist and merely entered into agreements with the small ryots for the payment of their dues.

For this and other reasons the new settlement was little more than a village rent in disguise. A "standard" *melvaram* had been fixed on a calculation of the average out turn of the village, but, in those villages at least where irrigation was precarious, the standard was bound to work unfairly in adverse seasons. Allowing however, that it was possible to arrive at a fair standard of out turn the sum found to be due by the wet lands with reference to the *olungu* prices was assessed in lump on the whole wet ayacut of the village, all fields being assumed to be equally productive. The fields had not been classified, and the old survey, which was already out of date, could not be adopted as a basis on which to work out a field classification. What happened in practice was that the head ryots and the cultivators worked out among themselves some sort of distribution of dues according to the quality of the fields which each man cultivated.

Reviewing the Tirunelveli land-revenue system in 1827, Government observed; "No good system of revenue management appears to have been established in Tinnevely. The system such as it was, is calculated to keep the Collector in ignorance of the state of the District and seems to have had in a great measure to that effect. There are no detailed accounts or even abstracts in his Cutchery that can be depended upon. The karnams execute many of the duties which properly belong to the Collector and the Tahsildars. They distribute the assessment; they assess ryots as they please by entering their lands under a class of higher or lower

rate of assessment. Orders regarding money settlement have been entirely misunderstood. The orders to fix money rent upon the average produce and price of a number of years have been interpreted to mean that, after ascertaining the average of any village, the whole of the lands of the village, whether good or bad, are to be assessed according to the relative produce”.

#### ADOPTION OF NEW PRINCIPLES—SURVEY AND CLASSIFICATION.

The Board issued orders for the classification of the wet lands and Mr. Dury, who became Collector in 1828, adopted a system which his predecessor, Mr. Kindersley, had initiated in the previous year. The wet lands were divided into *Kannars*, or blocks; accounts were prepared which showed the fields in consecutive order, the extent of each and the standard of its productivity in terms of *Kottais*. By 1835 one hundred and forty-six villages in the taluks of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram and Sankaranainarkoil had been treated in this manner and in the remaining villages the apportionment of the assessment still remained with the mirasidars. The *amani* system, had by 1839 at least, disappeared altogether. Between 1842 and 1844 an experimental survey and settlement, more or less according to the modern system, were carried out by E. B. Tomas, the Collector, in four villages; a commutation rate of Rs. 2½ for a *Kottai*<sup>1</sup> was adopted; the settlement was apparently popular, and its adoption actually resulted in a slight increase of revenue. It was felt, however, that the rates adopted were too low; and in the light of subsequent events it was satisfactory that the scheme was not extended. The opportunity was taken of anticipating some of the reforms which were adopted in the subsequent settlement of the District.

In spite of all the patchwork that had been attempted the revenue system remained most unsatisfactory. There were not less than 300 wet rates in force for *Kar* and *pisanam* together; the average of the wet assessment was higher than in any other district in the Presidency and under the best irrigation sources, wet lands paid twice as much as the average wet rates prevailing in Coimbatore, the District next most highly assessed. As late as 1855 it was calculated that one-third of the cultivable wet land was permanently waste, because the rates made cultivation unremunerative, and secondly they had been classed as wet. In the river valley a second crop on double-crop lands often paid as much as 80 per cent of the first crop charge; and in the case of lands registered as single crop the assessment due on a second crop varied according to the caprice of local custom. As a result of the arrangement, gross irregularities disfigured the accounts; the poor man's land was at a disadvantage with that of the rich, and scarcely a trace of the ryotwari system was to be found.

<sup>1</sup>The selling price of a *kottai* of paddy during the recent settlement was between Rs. 10 and 12.

The *olungu* system, based on a principle apparently sound, in that it accommodated itself to current prices, was not proof against the effect of sudden rises of the market, and during the period of high prices while set in with 1853, actually raised the assessment to an almost impossible figure. There were not less than 146 different *olungu* rates in force in the various parts of the District ; and as the market price of grain was not fixed until the end of April towards the close of the fasli, the ryot never knew what the demand against him would be until he was called upon to pay it.

*End of the Olungu system*.—During the first fifty years of the century, that is, through the periods of *amani* management, triennial lease, decennial lease and finally the *olungu* settlement, the land revenue derived from ryotwari lands, though subject to fluctuation, had on average of about Rs.17 lakhs. From 1843 onwards the price of grain had showed a market upward tendency, but the increase was not sufficient to deprive the ryots of the benefit of the *olungu* principle. In 1853, prices went up with a bound and in that year were nearly double, what they had been ten years before. By 1857, they had advanced by another 40 per cent, and they again increased by nearly 25 per cent in the following year. The demand now stood at the alarming and unprecedented figure of Rs. 28 lakhs<sup>1</sup>. The *olungu* system was clearly doomed and in the next year (1859-60) was abandoned in favour of a new settlement called the *mottafaisal*. Before dealing further with this subject, however, it is necessary to refer to certain other features of the old revenue system.

*The Dry Lands—Pre-British System*.—As has been seen, the pre-British custom in regard to the dry lands had been to levy a lump sum known as *Kattukuthagai* on each village and to make a few leading inhabitants responsible for its payment. According to Wilkes, the sum demanded was, as a rule, the equivalent of one-third of the gross produce of the soil.

#### LUSHINGTON'S SETTLEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.

Lushington found that, in accounts, the dry lands were roughly divided into four classes, known, in descending order of fertility, as *Karisal*, *Veppal*, *pottal* and *seval*, and were assessed at different rates accordingly. He adopted both the recorded classification and rates ; and made the ryots apportion the assessment among themselves according to the quality of the land each man cultivated. In the next year, the rates were increased to five in number and were somewhat reduced ; a survey was put in hand and the ryots of one village were told off to classify the lands of the next. Most of the ryots as might have been expected, did the work in their own homes and classed the best lands in the lowest tarams. In 1804, the Collector had to start the work once again and at the same

<sup>1</sup> That is only slightly less than the demand for the whole District (including the Ramanathapuram, taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur) as it stood after the recent resettlement.

time added a fifth class. The rates were once more raised and, on the completion of the survey, were finally fixed in 1808 at figures which thereafter remained unaltered. They varied between Rs. 2-5-0 and As. 10 per acre<sup>1</sup>. To those rates were added a number of miscellaneous charges professional taxes and village dues of all kinds, so that the original rates became unrecognizable.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PATTAS AND SUBSEQUENT CONFUSION OF ACCOUNTS.

In 1806, in spite of the opposition the "nattamaikarans", the leading men of the villages, pattas were distributed to the ryots in nine out of the nineteen taluks of the District; what further progress was made in the issue of pattas is not clear; but the theory prevailed at any rate, that from about that year the settlement of the dry lands of the whole District was in accordance with the ryotwari principles. It appears, however, that during the period of triennial and decennial leases, a lump-sum, as in the case of the wet lands, was levied from the head inhabitants, the ryots being left to distribute the payments amongst themselves with reference to the entries contained in the village accounts or in the pattas previously issued. At any rate, no jamabandi was conducted during these years; and to judge from the confessions of Munro, after he had been for three years Collector of the District, it might be inferred that no trace of any ryotwari system remained after the lease-period was over. "Your Board Believes", he wrote in 1826, "and I was given by Jivan Row (the Sherishtadar) to believe that the *punjai* lands of this District had been measured, classed and assessed and pattas given for each field. There remains some imperfect traces of this arrangement, but the whole system of accounts kept with its irreparably mutilated. Very few ryots can produce pattas. The village accounts are either lost or falsified and the corresponding documents in the Taluk and the Huzur Cutchery are either altered or lost. It is probable that this general mutilation of the accounts was gradually effected during the decennial lease. The headman of the villages mirasidars, nattanmaikars, karnams and their friends have got possession of the best lands whilst an average collection<sup>2</sup> has been made according to the extent of the lands filled by each cultivator without any regard to its quality much to the injury of poorer ryots".

*Attempted Remedies:*—The karnams were ordered to rewrite the accounts or to revise those that survived. They drew up list of fields by numbers but the notation meant nothing, and even the karnam himself could not identify on the ground the fields entered in his account. One year he numbered them off from north to south and in the next year from east to west; boundaries of fields were never mentioned, and though occasionally the name of the occupying ryot was entered, the account as a rule merely showed

<sup>1</sup> The unit of measurement was the chain " of 3.64 acres.

<sup>2</sup> A recognised system, which came to be known as *ivularam*

total the extent under cultivation in each class. The classes, moreover, had come to have very little meaning; for, after the various miscellaneous charges (see below) had been added, there were (according to a calculation made in 1855) as many as 497 different acreage<sup>1</sup> rates.

*Lands under private wells:*—In the case of lands irrigated by private wells the old practice had been to levy assessment according to the nature of the crop grown. In 1841 it was felt that this amounted to taxing improvements and orders were consequently passed that lands irrigated by privately-owned wells should pay only *punjai* rates. In application the order was taken to mean that wells sunk after the year (fasli 1251) in which the new rule came into force should have the benefit of the concession lands under “old” wells continued to pay at the old varying rates<sup>2</sup>.

*Miscellaneous Charges:*—In addition to the ordinary assessment levied on wet and dry lands a number of charges, classed for convenience as “ready money collections”, were included under the general head of land revenue. The *yavana* (abolished in 1807), an additional cess on wet lands, accounted annually, whilst it was in force, for considerably more than a lakh of rupees. The *nanjai-mel-punjai* was, in theory, the assessment levied on lands classed as “wet” but fit to procure only “dry” crops, such as ragi, onions and senna; it was in practice often confused with the charges levied, under the names of *bagayat* or *Vanpayar*, was registered in another as *nanjai-mel-punjai*. Under the *amani* system it had been impossible with most of these crops to divide the produce; consequently money rents, differing from village to village, had been usually demanded and these survived under subsequent systems, subject to the salutary rule that, if the *nanjai* rates were higher, that should be paid. The tax on betel gardens was a specially vexatious one. In addition to the assessment the cultivator had to pay a transit duty before he might pluck a single leaf; and it was calculated that the average taxation including assessment and duty, to which this species of produce was subject, amounted to Rs. 40 an acre. In 1842, the rule was introduced that all *nanjai-mel-punjai* lands, if irrigated, should pay ordinary wet assessment; and in 1855 eight specified kinds of cultivation which fell properly under the class of *vanpayar* or *bagayat* were declared liable to two full “wet rates”.

The charges known as *pattam* and *poruppu* were in the nature of favourable “quit-rents” imposed on lands granted, or believed to have been granted, subject to certain conditions in regard to reclamation.

1. In some parts of the District a charge was levied for a second crop on dry lands. The charge was abolished in 1857.

2. The anomaly was not removed until 1883 that is, until after the settlement. The lands irrigated by ‘old’ wells were at the settlement classified as ‘permanently improved’ and assessed at special rates higher than the ordinary dry rates. In 1883, ordinary rates were imposed.

**Desakkaval Fees:**—A vexatious charge which from the earliest times had been levied in certain villages as an additional cess on the wet and dry lands was the *Desakkaval* tax. It represented the fees formerly levied by the poligars on the lands of the sirkar villages on the pretext of “watching fees”. Some villages paid it and some were exempted, and the rates at which it was calculated apprtary to have been numberless. Proposals to abolish the tax were sent up from time to time, but it was decided finally that the matter should lie for over the coming settlement. The cess was abolished then.

**Nilavari:**—A curious additional impost on the land was the tax known as *nilavari* which was levied on dry and wet lands alike ; and from the accounts preserved of the method by which it was assessed, it seems unlikely that even the large sums, varying between one and two lakhs of rupees which were annually credited to this head, represented the whole of the collections made under the pretext of this tax. *Nilavari* included, fees paid to the village servants ; charges incurred by the villager in buying limes when the headman went out to receive persons in authority presents given to the huzur accountants at the time of jamabandi travelling allowances for village headmen ; fees paid by the *mahajanams* to the taluk office gumastas in order that they might be given their proper titles in the accounts ; fees to shroff ; fees to “sastris, poets, musicians, jugglers and tumblers” for the performances that they gave when high officials came to the village and a host of other payments. The tax was abolished in 1857.

The taxes on trees, which survive in a modified form to the present day, underwent an important reform about this time. They are dealt with below.

**Taxes on trees—Extra sources of revenue:**—Unconnected with the land, but lumped occasionally under the general head of “land revenue”, were the taxes which in the early records are referred to as *Swarnadayam* and came to be known generally as *moturfa*. These taxes as well as those comprised under the heading “extra sources of revenue”, are dealt with in Chapter XII.

**Official language:**—A reform of some importance which was carried out in 1854, was the discontinuance of Mahratti as the official language of correspondence between the offices of the Collector and Tahsildars. During the earliest years of the Company's rule two sets of accounts, one in Mahratti and the other in Tamil, were kept in the revenue office, and in 1814, the Tamil accounts were discontinued. Persian which had been the medium of correspondence, was in 1804 replaced by Mahratti ; Tamil was substituted in 1813 but in 1827 gave way to Mahratti. The

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1 This tax is to be distinguished from the “*moturfa*” *Desakkaval* fees.



village accounts had always been kept in Tamil, which was also the language used in addressing zamindars and in police correspondence. The revenue offices were thus until 1854 the close preserve of a very small class.

*The Motta Faisal:*—By 1859, therefore, the revenue system had been purged many of its worse voices, and the new system of *motta faisal*, which, as has been seen was introduced in that year, started under favourable conditions. By the new system (which had already been tried in Thanjavur) the *Olungu* standard price was adopted as the unalterable commutations rate. Although the price of grain actually fell in 1859—60 by over 30 per cent the result of the adoption of the fixed standard price was a saving in that year to the ryots of Rs. 5 lakhs as compared with what they would have had to pay under the old system.

*The A and B Registers:*—With a view to the determination of the amount due by each ryot both on wet and dry lands, two important accounts, described as the A and B registers—the precursors of the modern settlement register—were put in hand. The B register was the important one. It exhibited the total extent of land in the occupation of each ryot, not only that which he had cultivated in the last preceding fasli, but also that which, though fallow, had been at any known period in his occupation. The register was completed in 1864, and from that year onwards each ryot was responsible for the assessment on the extent of land entered in his name and received a patta showing the demand against him. The individual fields had in most villages not been surveyed, and, even where this had been roughly attempted, there was no notation by which they could be specified, consequently the entry made against each ryot's name was the total assessment due on his entire holding. In the case of wet lands this sum was calculated at the commutation rate, either with reference to the standard *melvaram* rate of the village or, if the village had been classified, according to the block rate; in the case of the dry lands the *taram* rates were adopted. When the system first came in, the Collector was given a large discretion to grant remissions in the case of uncultivated fields; but, as soon as the registers were completed, the ryot was given the option of paying assessment on relinquishing what he could not cultivate. In spite of the concession, the ryots chose to retain in their pattas as much as 250,000 acres of uncultivated land.

*Effects of the new system:*—The effects of the new method of assessment and registration were seen in an increase, between 1860 and 1865 of 18 per cent in the figures of cultivation, for wet and dry lands together, accompanied by a corresponding rise in revenue. In 1865, a year in which the price of grain reached an unprecedented figure, it was calculated that, had the old *olungu* system still been in force, the revenue demand would have been greater by Rs. 32 lakhs, a sum which, it may be presumed, could never have been collected.

**Disappearance of Mirasi:**—One of the most important economic result of the new system was the blow it dealt to the old obstructive claim of *mirasi* right. When in 1826 orders were passed requiring the issue of pattas, the question arose as who should receive them, should they go to the mirasidars or to the cultivating ryots? It was reported that in the entire District there were only thirty-six villages in which *mirasi* was unknown and that, since the early years of the century, the claim had become by degrees more widespread. Three classes of villages were distinguished at the time ; the *panguvali* villages, in which the mirasidars, the virtual owners of all the land, enjoyed their own shares in rotation ; the *pattavritti*, those in which the mirasidars enjoyed their fixed portions ; the few *parumpattu* villages in which there was no intermediary (besides the headman, or “nattamaikaran”, appointed by Government to receive the revenue) between the sirkar and the cultivator. In practice, those responsible for the revenue, both in the dry villages and in the wet whether under leases or under the *olungu* system were in almost all cases the mirasidars ; and it may readily be understood that in the presence of such excellent opportunities, the *mirasi* claim was not slow to assert itself. There is no question that the village lease system gave a strong impetus to this process. The *mirasi* claim extended itself not only to the lands which the mirasidar was himself able to cultivate or get cultivated but also to the waste lands of the village. If a cultivator, or *purakudi* chose to bring waste under the plough, he paid a fee known as *swamibhogam* (believed to have been the equivalent of about 5 percent of the gross produce) to the mirasidar. By degrees, as the issue of pattas became more general, these extravagant claims received a set-back ; and, by 1850 or perhaps earlier, the practice was established that, if a mirasidar left land uncultivated for as much as five years, any person might apply for it and obtain registry. Just about the time that the system inaugurated by the B register was coming into force, a suit on the subject of *swamibhogam* had gone against the mirasidars of a village. The *pangalis* still objected before the Collector to the issue of pattas in favour of *purakudi*. Failing to secure their object appealed to the Board of Revenue. The Board, following the decision which the court had already given, declined to interfere. A few instances in which exception was taken to the issue of patta, on the ground that the objectors received *swamibhogam* from the occupants, arose even during the recent resettlement ; most of these claims were either rejected on their merits or compromised on terms which gave the occupants their pattas. It may fairly be said that for the past half a century *mirasi* and *swamibhogam* have been unknown to the revenue system.

#### FEATURES OF ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT OF SATTUR AND SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUKS.

The Ramanathapuram District was constituted only in 1910, comprising mainly of the ryotwari taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur transferred from Tirunelveli District and the Zamin estates

of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga transferred from Madurai district. At the time of the formation of the District the first re-settlement of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks along with Sankaran-koil and Ottapidaram (now known as Koilpatti) taluks of Tirunelveli District was in progress. But the formation of the new District was not allowed to interfere with the re-settlement and a scheme report was accordingly submitted for all the four taluks mentioned above together taking into account the common general and settlement features. The orders of the Government approving the proposals and the notification are also common to all the four taluks.<sup>1</sup> Sub-sequent to the re-settlement of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks certain scattered villages in the District, came up for settlement and re-settlement as detailed below :

1. Twenty-two resumed Inam Villages in Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur, Paramagudi and Tiruvadanai taluks, (Settlement-Ref. No. G.O. 1238, Revenue, dated 31st May, 1916, G.O. No. 2098, Revenue, dated 14th September 1916, G.O. No. 2377, Revenue, dated 21st October, 1916, B.P. No. 2, dated 8th January 1918).

2. Eight of the villages transferred from Tirumangalam Taluk of Madurai District to Aruppukkottai Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District (Re-Settlement Ref. G.O. No. 274 Revenue, dated 5th February 1919, and G.O. No. 665, Revenue, dated 20th March 1919, and B.P. No. 52, dated 16th April 1920).

3. Four villages in Paramagudi Taluk transferred from the Madurai District on constitution of Ramanathapuram District in 1910 (Re-settlement—Ref. same G. Os. as noted against (2) above and B.P. No. 17, dated 26th January 1921).

4. Resumed Inam village of Ravuthampatti in Sattur Taluk (Settlement Ref. G.O. Miscellaneous No. 27, Revenue, dated 6th January 1920).

5. Ten resumed inam villages in Sivaganga, Sattur, Tiruvadanai, Mudukulattur and Paramagudi taluks of Ramanathapuram District (Settlement Ref. G.O. Ms. No. 2813, Miscellaneous Revenue, dated 25th November 1920).

6. Saravanendal village in Tiruvadanai Taluk (Settlement—Ref. G.O. No. 2 116, dated 21st November 1933).

The settlement or re-settlement of the above areas followed the same general lines adopted for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks.

The original settlement of the Tirunelveli District was conducted between 1872 and 1878 and by Puckle, who was also the Collector of the District. The Tirunelveli District was divided by Puckle into four tracts the river valley, the palmyrah forest, the red soil tract and the black soil tract but the proposals ultimately evolved by him for the river valley were generally applied to all other tracts also. The prevailing soils viz., black loam, and sand clay red loam and sand were divided into 5 sorts thus giving 25 varieites of soils. For wet lands the yield of each variety was ascertained by experiments and enquiries and soils of similar yields were bracketted together and seven tarams or classes were arrived at. For dry lands no experiments were, however, made but by a similar merging of like soils, as for wet lands for dry lands also 7 tarams or classes were arrived at. Classification of soils was done in blocks. Paddy was taken as the standard crop for wet lands and the gross average yield was converted into money rate at the average selling price for a series of twenty

1. G.O. No. 785, Revenue, dated 18th March, 1911.

years after making a deduction of about 16 percent for cartage and merchants' profits. From the value of the gross yield thus determined deductions were made for cultivation expenses to arrive at the net produce. From half the value of the net produce thus arrived at a further deduction of 10 per cent was made to allow for factors like unprofitable areas etc. The remainder was rounded off suitably and fixed the standard as assessment. The standard scale of rates for the 7 tarams of wet lands thus were—Rs. 12·00 ; Rs. 10·50 ; Rs. 9·00 ; Rs. 7·50 ; Rs. 6·00 ; Rs. 4·50 and Rs. 3·50. Villages were divided into four groups for the purposes of wet lands with reference to their relative advantages of irrigation, situation etc. The standard scale of rates mentioned above were applied to the first group of villages only and they were suitably modified to suit the circumstances and conditions of other groups by stepping down one taram for each group and by providing lower rates for the lowest tarams under the inferior groups. Most of Srivilliputtur was placed in the third group and Sattur in the fourth group.

For the dry lands, however, as already stated above, no attempt was made to determine the yield etc. Puckle did not work out a settlement table for dry lands. He was guided by the experience he had gained in Salem and Tiruchirapalli and he used only a few rates and classified the lands in large blocks. He adopted neither the Tiruchirapalli nor the Salem table in its entirety. There was no grouping for dry lands either as he found all to be poor alike and according to him "the advantage some of them gained in fertility was lost in position".

The resultant rates for wet and dry lands as evolved by Puckle are shown below:—

#### WET LANDS.

| <i>First Group.</i> |    | <i>Second Group.</i> |    | <i>Third Group.</i> |    | <i>Fourth Group.</i> |    |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| (1)                 |    | (2)                  |    | (3)                 |    | (4)                  |    |
| RS.                 | P. | RS.                  | P. | RS.                 | P. | RS.                  | P. |
| 12                  | 00 | 10                   | 50 | 9                   | 00 | 7                    | 50 |
| 10                  | 50 | 9                    | 00 | 7                   | 50 | 6                    | 00 |
| 9                   | 00 | 7                    | 50 | 6                   | 00 | 4                    | 50 |
| 7                   | 50 | 6                    | 00 | 4                   | 50 | 3                    | 50 |
| 6                   | 00 | 4                    | 50 | 3                   | 50 | 3                    | 00 |
| 4                   | 50 | 3                    | 50 | 3                   | 00 | 2                    | 50 |
| 3                   | 50 | 3                    | 00 | 2                   | 50 | 2                    | 00 |

#### DRY LANDS.

| RS. | P. |
|-----|----|
| 5   | 00 |
| 3   | 50 |
| 2   | 50 |
| 1   | 50 |
| 1   | 00 |
| 0   | 75 |
| 0   | 50 |
| 0   | 37 |
| 0   | 25 |
| 0   | 19 |

It will be seen that the provision of four groups involving three additional tarams resulted in the wet rates increasing from 7 in number to 10. Similarly, in respect of dry lands the provision of rates (Rs.5 and Rs. 3.50 P.) for the permanently improved soils in the garden lands under wells and a special sixth sort under red sand (Re. 0.19 P.) for the very inferior soils of the palmyra tract resulted in the increase of dry rates also from 7 in number to 10.

Double crop charges adopted by Puckle were two-thirds, half, one-third and quarter over the single crop rates for the four groups respectively. Bailing wet lands were charged at half the single crop wet rates.

Treatment of palmyras formed a peculiar feature in the original settlement of the Tirunelveli District. The practice of levying a charge on the palmyras, in addition to and quite independently of land assessment had prevailed in the area from early times. In 1855, the Government abolished the taxation of trees on patta lands in the rest of the Presidency but made exceptions in the case of Tirunelveli and Salem as far as palmyras were concerned on account of the peculiar tenures and complicated interests affected. Prior to original settlement it is reported that there were in the areas about 5 million trees yielding approximately a revenue of rupees one and a half lakhs and it was thought to be a fruitful and expanding source of revenue. Enumeration of the trees and the collection of the tax were attended to with much labour and strain and also vexation to all concerned. Besides the above there were other complications such as trees alone being held on patta by persons who owned no land in the village, trees held on patta on lands owned by different pattadars, trees held on patta on poramboke and Government waste lands etc. Puckle entrusted to himself the task of studying carefully the complications and inconsistencies referred to above and evolving a simple system of Palmyra Settlement. He at first proposed the redemption of the tree tax by the owners at twenty years' purchase. This proposal, however, did not meet with the approval of the Board. The Board was inclined to the merging of the tree tax and the land tax by adding an assessment representing the value of the land as a produce of palmyra to its assessment as a produce of grains. Puckle, however, thought that this would affect the uniformity of land assessment and introduced an element unconnected with the classification of soils on which assessment is usually based. As a result palmyra tree tax was allowed to continue as an independent tax with certain modifications proposed by Puckle to simplify the system. The main features of his scheme were to fix the palmyra tax calculated at a certain rate per tree for a period of years and to free the land from prospective demands when new palmyras are grown. Thus a permanent palmyra tax was introduced. As new palmyras were not to be taxed a small addition to the calculated sum was made and thus a sort of arbitrary

compounding was effected. No charge was to be levied for old palmyras cut or removed. With regard to trees on Government waste land; it was proposed to assign the lands concerned to the tree pattadars at a nominal land assessment besides the tree tax calculated as mentioned above. With regard to trees held by persons other than the land pattadars and where the different ownerships of trees on Government Waste Lands could not be easily ascertained the prevailing system of enumeration and taxation was allowed to continue. The freedom to remove old trees or plant new ones was not allowed to this class of persons. Palmyras were divided into five classes according to age and sex and charged.

*Commutation Rates:*—The standard crop and out-turn taken for consideration at the time of the original settlement was adopted without any change during re-settlement. After allowing deductions from merchants' profits and cartage and commutation rate of Rs. 108 per garce was adopted during the original settlement. Calculating the commutation rate in a similar manner on the average price of paddy during the twenty normal years preceding Fasli 1318—preceding re-settlement, it worked out to Rs. 154 a garce thus registering an increase in prices by 43 per cent. Instead of 5 per cent on the gross value of the crop allowed for agricultural risks during the original settlement, an allowance of 10 per cent was proposed during re-settlement. The allowance made at the original settlement for cultivation expenses was increased at a rate equal to the increase in prices, i.e. 43 per cent. In consideration of all these factors, however, during re-settlement a general enhancement of assessment by 12 per cent was decided upon. During the original settlement double crop charges were calculated at one and two-thirds; one and a half; one and one-third and one and a quarter time single crop rates for the four groups respectively. During re-settlement the Government proposed to adopt the scale of charges prevailing in the other Districts, viz., one and a half, one and one-third, one and quarter and one and one-fifth the single crop charge. With certain exception an enhancement of 12 per cent was generally applied to the old double crop assessment and the single crop rate was derived there from on the basis of the new proportions. This resulted in the highest single crop rate increasing from Rs. 12-00 to Rs. 15-00 an increase of 25 per cent which was not unjustifiable considering the general rate of increase in prices.

The rates of enhancement, however, were not uniform and at the lowest end the increase was exactly  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the single crop

assessment and rather less when calculated on the double crop assessment. The resultant wet rates, after resettlement, are furnished below :

| <i>First<br/>class<br/>source.</i> | <i>Second<br/>class<br/>source.</i> | <i>Third<br/>class<br/>source.</i> | <i>Fourth<br/>class<br/>source.</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1)                                | (2)                                 | (3)                                | (4)                                 |
| RS. P.                             | RS. P.                              | RS. P.                             | RS. P.                              |
| 15 00                              | 13 12                               | 10 25                              | 8 50                                |
| 13 12                              | 10 25                               | 8 50                               | 6 75                                |
| 10 12                              | 8 50                                | 6 75                               | 5 00                                |
| 7 50                               | 6 75                                | 5 00                               | 4 00                                |
| 5 62                               | 5 00                                | 4 00                               | 3 37                                |
| 4 25                               | 4 00                                | 3 37                               | 2 75                                |
| 3 37                               | 3 37                                | 2 75                               | 2 25                                |

As already stated earlier during the original settlement no out-turn, commutation rate or settlement table for dry lands was worked out and therefore it was not possible during *re-settlement to work-out* the percentage variations in the ordinary manner. There was, therefore, no other alternative during re-settlement except to revise the dry rates suitably purely on the basis of general inquiries regarding increase in average prices of dry grains and scrutiny of the sale and lease value of lands and the improvements effected in communications and marketing facilities. Based on these enquiries it was proposed to enhance the first four rates at the general rate of 3 annas in the rupee, the next at the general rate of 2 annas in the rupee, and to leave the three lowest tarams unaltered. The Board also recommended these proposals of the Special Officer but, the Government took the view that it was undesirable to increase the assessment on the corresponding rates which were somewhat simplified.

*Other features:*—The division of Samudayam lands, allocation of building sites and pasture lands, lease of fishery rights in tanks on a fixed rental during the currency of settlement are some of the other incidental features of the original settlement of the Tirunelveli District. There was also rather an unusual feature then—cases of association of Settlement Officers in the construction of several works of public utility.

#### RE-SETTLEMENT.

*Classification of soils:*—During re-settlement there was no general re-classification of soils except in the case of dry lands in a few villages of watrap valley where Chandwick thought that “there was something wrong with the classification of dry lands in the Watrap Valley” during the original settlement. Lands which were originally registered as “permanently improved” were transferred to their appropriate classes and sorts. Another modification

suggested by Chandwick and approved by the Government during the re-settlement of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks was the re-classification of the superior and rich red loam of the Srivilliputtur Taluk, which was up during original settlement as IV-I best black cotton—"though in colour as red as Chepauk" not having a name in the table for such soil—as VII-A without any proposal to raise or alter the taram but merely adopting the rate for IV-I soil.

*Classification of Irrigation Sources:*—While during the original settlement the wet lands in the area were divided into four groups, during the re-settlement the grouping system was done away with and instead the irrigation sources were classified with reference to second crop cultivation in respect of river fed sources and with reference to capacity in the case of rain-fed sources. The irrigation sources were classified into four classes as shown below :

(i) First class sources comprised of river-fed sources, 85 per cent of the area under which was regularly cultivated with two wet crops.

(ii) Second class sources comprised of river-fed sources, 50 to 84 per cent of the area under which was regularly cultivated with two irrigated crops, one of which was a wet crop.

(iii) Third class sources comprised of all river-fed sources less than 50 per cent of the area under which was cultivated with two irrigated crops and all rain fed sources affording more than five months' supply.

(iv) Fourth class sources comprised of rain-fed dry lands by a larger percentage than on wet lands and that there was no need to treat the dry lands, in the northern taluks differently from those in the southern taluks and ordered that the table of rates sanctioned. In the case of the southern taluks can be adopted in respect of the northern taluks also. The resultant dry rates for re-settlement are furnished below :

| RS. | P. | RS. | P. |
|-----|----|-----|----|
| 2   | 81 | 0   | 56 |
| 1   | 69 | 0   | 37 |
| 1   | 12 | 0   | 25 |
| 0   | 81 | 0   | 19 |

*Fasti jasti:*—During re-settlement the charge for occasional second crop on single crop wet lands was ordered to be levied at half of single crop assessment instead of three-fourth that was being charged previously.

*Bailing Remission:*—The bailing wet lands were re-classified and a fixed remission of Re. 1 for the first crop and naya paise 50 for the second crop was allowed instead of a remission of half the assessment as made earlier.



*Palmyras*:—During the re-settlement palmyra bearing tracts were divided into three groups with reference to the suitability of the tract for the growth of palmyras which has a specific effect on the yield of the trees. The trees were divided into two categories "Smooth" and "Rough" meaning "trees" which had come to yield and fit for tapping and trees which were not so fit respectively. The rate adopted were as shown below:

| <i>Group.</i> |     |     | <i>Smooth.</i> | <i>Rough.</i> |
|---------------|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|
|               |     |     | PIES.          | PIES.         |
| 1st           | ... | ... | 8              | 3             |
| 2nd           | ... | ... | 6              | 3             |
| 3rd           | ... | ... | 4              | 2             |

Both Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks were placed in the third group. Palmyra Mediation Officers were appointed to tackle the cases of trees held by persons other than the pattadars. Rules governing the assignment of waste lands containing palmyras were incorporated in the District Standing Orders. Attempts were continuously made to effect some measure of order and simplicity in respect of a most complicated and vexed question.

*Fisheries*:—The existing fishery pattas were continued subject to an enhancement of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The Government at one time proposed to order the sale of fisheries annually and later they agreed to continue the pattas for a period of five years. But on appeal to the Secretary of State, it was decided to renew the pattas for the full settlement period subject only to an enhancement of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

*Other Features*:—Thus it would be seen that earnest attempts were made during re-settlement to eliminate the peculiarities and anomalies of the original settlement and to bring the system in accordance with the practice in the other districts and conform to the Board's Standing Orders and other general orders issued from time to time in revenue and settlement matters. But it must, however, be remembered that everything was done within the general frame work of Mr. Puckle's system "which was rightly considered a classic" and was unassailable despite the passage of time.

*Other Settlements and Re-settlements effected*:—Subsequent to the re-settlement of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks, a few scattered villages came up for settlement and re-settlement. The following 22 villages in Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram Zamin which were granted for religious and charitable purposes were wholly or partially resumed :

*Ramanathapuram District.*

1. Kanjirangudi.
2. Kumariyendal.
3. Andichiendal.
4. Ladanendal.
5. Pandamangulam.

*Paramagudi Taluk.*

6. Melapidariseri.
7. Pandappanendal.
8. Thattanendal.

*Mudukulattur Taluk I.*

9. Kuttadiyendal.
10. Sadaikanendal.
11. Kudirmoli.

*Mudukulattur Taluk II.*

12. Sendaneri.
12. Sippikulam.
14. Alavankulam.
15. Brahmankulam.
16. Kurichikulam.

*Tiruvadanai Taluk.*

17. Tirupalaikudi.
18. Machur.
19. Pattamangulam.
20. Kumani.
21. Irumbavayal.
22. Alikkudi.

In respect of the classification of irrigation sources a clause permitting discretion to the Settlement Officer was introduced in the Settlement Notification for this area as mentioned below :—

“These principles of grouping are laid down for general guidance but there may be cases in which their strict application would lead to undue increase of assessment or to unnecessary sacrifice of revenue. In such cases the special Settlement Officer, may, for reasons to be recorded and subject to the control of the Collector and the Board of Revenue, exercise his discretion in departing from the general principles laid down above and may assign such classification to the irrigation sources, as he deems equitable.”

Such a provision, as the above is not found in Sattur and Srivilliputtur notification.

All the villages were placed in one dry group. Even though there were a few coastal villages in the Mudukulattur Taluk it was not considered necessary to introduce a second group merely for their sake.

III—1, 2 and 3; IV—2, 3 and 4; VII—1, 1, 2, 3 and 4; VIII—1 to 5 were the classes and sorts used.

In respect of palmyras the procedure adopted for the ayan taluks of the District was followed.

## TRANSFER OF EIGHT VILLAGES TO ARUPPUKOTTAI TALUK.

1. Kuttukottai,
2. Nandikundu,
3. Mallankinar,
4. Reddiapatti,
5. Kovilangulam,
6. Kariappatti,
7. Chatram—Puliyankulam and
8. Vettilai—Muriyanpatti.

The above 8 villages originally formed part of Tirumangalam Taluk of Madurai District and were settled originally along with the rest of that District. They were included in Boag's Scheme of re-settlement for the non-Periyar tracts of Madura on which the Government had passed orders<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, however, these villages were transferred to Aruppukkottai Taluk of the Ramanathapuram District<sup>2</sup>. Boag, therefore, considered that the orders contained in G.O. No. 53, Revenue, dated 8th January 1916, should be so modified as to enable him to apply the rates found in the Ramnad Re-settlement Table in such a manner as to give, as nearly as possible, the same enhancement as that sanctioned in the order referred. Boag also recommended the re-classification of the soils on the Ramnad System so as to facilitate the application of the Ramnad Re-settlement Rates.

In respect of these villages also there is a provision in the notification allowing discretion to the Settlement Officer to deal with exceptional cases in respect of classification of irrigation sources.

The soils already classified on the Madura System were now re-classified on the Ramnad System. It is interesting to note that the merging of the soils of different classes was different in Madurai and in Ramanathapuram and strangely enough in Madurai "Black clay" was considered superior to "Black loam" while in Ramanathapuram "Black clay" was considered inferior to "Black loam". This necessitated the black clay being stepped up one sort and the black loam being stepped down one sort. Red loam and red sand soils were more or less left as they were.

There is no mention of palmyras either in the Scheme Report or the Notification or the Introduction Report.

## RE-SETTLEMENT OF FOUR VILLAGES IN THE PARAMALUDI TALUK.

1. Sittanendal,
2. Periyandendal,
3. Kakkanendal and
4. Chathurvedamangalam.

These villages which originally formed part of the Ramanathapuram Zamin, had been assigned even before the Permanent Settlement for the support of a deposed Poligar; and the revenue

- 
1. G.O. No. 53, Revenue, dated 8th January 1916.
  2. G.O. No. 442, Revenue, dated 17th January 1915.

there from was excluded from the assets of the Zamin when the peishkash was fixed. After being changed through several hands these villages were finally reverted to Government by escheat. They were originally settled in 1890 on the lines sanctioned for the settlement of Madurai District. In 1920, when the currency of the original settlement expired, they were re-settled generally on the lines laid down for Sattur and Srivilliputtur.

During the original settlement these villages were placed in the second group by Mr. Clerk not on any consideration of their distance from markets and roads or railways but solely with a view to avoid excessive increase in the assessment by settlement. During re-settlement, however, Mr. Boag raised these villages to the first group and considered it unnecessary to retain a second group.

In these villages also the soils were re-classified with reference to the Ramnad system.

There is no mention of Palmyras in the papers relating to the re-settlement of these villages.

#### RAVUTTAMPATTI VILLAGE OF THE SATTUR TALUK.

This is a small resumed Inam village in the Sattur Taluk. This village was settled on the lines laid down for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks and the proposals were approved by the Government<sup>1</sup>.

#### TEN RESUMED INAM VILLAGES.

##### *Sivaganga Taluk.*

1. Karungalakudi.
2. Usilanendal-Sundanendal.
3. Ramamandalakottai.
4. Tiruppuvanam.

##### *Sattur Taluk.*

5. Kundulakkuttu.
6. Nallamuthanpatti.

##### *Tiruvadanai Taluk.*

7. Kandangudi.

##### *Mudukulatpur Taluk.*

8. Eravadi.
9. Tarakudi.

##### *Paramagudi Taluk.*

10. Pirakkankuichi.

The above villages were also settled on the lines laid down for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks including the treatment of Palmyras<sup>2</sup>.

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1. G.O. Ms. No. 27, Revenue, dated 6th January 1920.

2. G.O. Ms. No. 2813, Revenue, dated 25th November 1920.

### SARAVANENDAL VILLAGE IN THE TIRUVADANAI TALUK.

The above village was also settled on the lines of the notification for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks and the Settlement Notification was approved by the Government<sup>1</sup>.

### ZAMINDARI AND INAM ESTATES.

*The salient features of the settlement and resettlement of ryotwari areas in the taluks and the recommendations regarding the introduction of ryotwari settlement in the estates:* The important features of each of the main estates (zamin) as well as some important Inam Estates covered by the report dealing with the suggestions and recommendations are given below :—

The important Zamin Estates in the two taluks covered by this report are : *Seithur* and *Zamin Kollengondan* in the Srivilliputtur Taluk, *Sevalpatti*, *Mannarkottai*, *Pavali*, *Sennalkudi*, *Elayirampennai* and *Chinnavadi* in the Sattur Taluk.

*A note on Zamindari Estate in the two taluks : (which were later abolished under Estates Abolition Act of 1948) :*

#### SEITHUR ZAMIN.

Seithur Zamin is a compact block of 8 villages lying in the extreme south-west corner of the Ramanathapuram District, 12 miles south of Srivilliputtur and 5 miles south of Rajapalayam. Its western border runs along the forest and hills on the North Travancore-Ramanathapuram boundary.

These hills form the catchment area for the streams that feed the tanks of the Zamin. This Zamin was permanently settled in 1803. Before and at the time of settlement mostly waram system prevailed, the Zamindar being entitled to more than 50 per cent of the gross yield. This system continued upto Fasli 1340. This Zamin was surveyed and Record of Rights were settled by Government in 1916<sup>2</sup>. On a request of the ryots for settlement of rents under section 168 of the Estates Land Act, 1908, the Government took "settlement" proceedings which passed through various stages from 1925 to 1936 and the rents were finally fixed to come into force from Fasli 1340. The rates prevalent just prior to the introduction of rates under Rent Reduction Act were in accordance with the Settlement.

There are 33 irrigation sources in the Estate consisting of 28 tanks and 5 channels. During the course of the settlement proceedings referred to above conducted at the instance of the ryots, all the

1. G.O. Ms. No. 2116, Miscellaneous, Revenue, dated 21st November 1933.

2. G.O. No. 2965, Revenue, dated 21st December 1916, communicated in B.P. No. 92, dated 15 th January 1917.

irrigation sources were carefully inspected and classified into three (III, IV and V) Classes according to the standards laid down during re-settlement of the Tirunelveli District in which this estate was formerly situated.

The predominant soil is red loam. The soil is of a superior variety and in quite a few places it is comparable with the superior red soil found in Watrap and classified as VII-A during re-settlement. The irrigation sources in the Zamin comprise mainly rainfed tanks, the supply channels of some of which start direct from the mountains

Usually all the wet lands are raised with a single crop and occasionally here and there a short term crop is also raised in addition. The wet rates prevalent prior to the introduction of rent reduction rates were: Rs. 19-37P, 17-37P, 15-37 P, 13-37P, 11-37P, 9-37P, 4-94P, 2-00 and 1-50P. The dry rates prevalent were only Re. 1 and 50 P. The Zamindar used to charge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the wet assessment for duffasal crops and for irrigated second crop on wet lands and Zamindar charged Rs. 5 per acre irrespective of the rate of assessment. For irrigating dry lands with permission, Rs. 4 per acre was being charged. For irregular irrigation the Zamindar used to levy heavy penalties.

Between the eastern most block which adjoins the cultivable lands in the plains and the western most block called "Melmalai" which extends western to the Travancore border, there is an intervening block called the "the Siraikadu Forest" forming part of this Zamin. By the time the stay order was vacated by the High Court and the Estate was eventually taken over by the Government on 8th March 1954, the landholder was alleged to have caused considerable denudation of the forest.

#### ZAMIN KOLLANGONDAN.

Kollangondan is the only village in Kollangondan Zamin. It is situated 3 miles off Rajapalayam and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles off Seithur. The soil is predominantly red loam mainly of ordinary variety. There are four irrigated sources which are all rain-fed. Wet rates collected by the Zamindar range from Re. 1-00 to Rs. 11-12 P. per acre. All the wet lands are single crop wet lands. This zamin was taken over on 7th September 1950.

#### ZAMINS IN THE SATTUR TALUK.

*Sevalpatty Zamin*:—There are 21 villages of Sevalpatty Zamin in the Sattur Taluk and they lie scattered in the southern and south-western portion of the Taluk. Three villages of this Zamin Chatrapatti, Kulasekaranperi and Kulasekarankottai lie in the Sankarankoil Taluk and two villages, Gangankulam and Poosaripatti lie in the Koilpatti Taluk of Tirunelveli District. Black loam is the predominant soil in the area. The soil is of good as well as of ordinary variety. There are few places here and there, where patches of red loam also

occur. There are 11 irrigation sources in the 21 villages of this Zamin situated in the Sattur Taluk. All the sources are rain-fed. In addition to wet and dry lands there is a description of "Garden lands" also in the village account. This description is given only to dry lands containing old wells—presumed to be wells sunk prior to 1908. Garden rates are not charged for the dry lands which contain wells sunk subsequently. In the Zamin the "wet" rates varied from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 9-11-8; "Garden" rates from Rs. 2-14-5 to 16-4-8 and "dry" rates from Rs. 0-15-4 to Rs. 2-0-1.

**Mannarkottai Zamin:**—This Zamin comprises of 15 villages. Mannarkottai is situated at a distance of 11 miles from Sattur and 8 miles from Virudhunagar and is 2½ miles off Madurai-Tirunelveli Road. There are only two tanks in this Zamin and in all the remaining villages there are only dry and garden lands. Both the irrigation sources are rain-fed tanks. The soil met within these villages is predominantly black loam. The classification of "Garden lands" is applicable only to such of those dry lands where wells presumed to have been sunk prior to 1908 exist. In the Zamin the "wet" rates varied from Rs. 3-3-0 to Rs. 25-15-8. "garden" rates varied from Rs. 2-5-9 to 19-13-0 and "dry" rates from Rs. 0-7-3 to Rs. 1-8-2.

**Pavali Zamin:**—There are 6 groups of villages in this Zamin with 17 component village. Separate village accounts are kept in respect of 14 villages. The accounts of the other three villages are included in those of the main villages of Pavali and Sivagnanapuram. Pavali itself is situated close to Virudhunagar, an important commercial centre in this District. There are only four irrigation sources in the Zamin, all of them rain-fed. The soil met with is generally good black loam. In addition to "wet and dry" lands there is also a description known as "garden" lands—a term applicable to the dry lands in which wells presumed to have been sunk prior to 1908 are in existence. In addition to the dry, garden and wet rates, special rates and crop rates have been in vogue in this Zamin for garden lands. The special rates prevalent in the Zamin prior to the introduction of Rent Reduction Rates are given below :

|  | Rs.   | As.   | Ps.  |                     |
|--|-------|-------|------|---------------------|
| Plantain, Betel and Sugarcane                    | ..    | 12-   | 8-0  | Per acre per year.  |
| Vegetables, Chillies, Brinjals, Tobacco,<br>etc. | 8-14- | 0     |      | Per acre per kundu. |
| Ragi, Chola, Varaz <sup>4</sup> , Cambu          | ..    | 3-14- | 8    | Per acre per crop.  |
| Greens   | ..    | 7-    | 5- 0 | Per acre.           |
| Poosani  | ..    | 2-    | 5- 0 | Per acre per crop.  |
| Vacant sites in Garden lands                     | ..    | 3-15- | 2    | Per acre per year.  |

Besides the above another peculiarity in this Zamin was the levy of "Kulavettu" Thiruvai on wet lands in addition to the assessment collected at the rates of 12 marakkals of paddy or its market value on the yield from 1.32 acres.

Though this is a Zamin it is understood that the income from the entire Zamin is utilised by the landholder for the upkeep of the Virudhunagar Centram at Dhanushkodi and Kattalais at the term of a Settlement Deed executed by the donors on 30th September 1879.

*Sennlakudi Zamin*:—This Zamin comprises of 6 villages, all of them lying in one block about 3 miles off Virudhunagar. The last Zamindarini died in her 85th year in 1947 and since then there have been rival claimants to the registry of Zamin. There are only two irrigation sources in this Zamin, one in Mettukundu and another in Kadambankulam both the sources are rain-fed. Black loam of good as well as ordinary variety is the predominant soil in the area. In this Zamin also there is an addition to “wet” and “dry” lands a description known as “garden” applied to lands containing wells which are presumed to have been sunk prior to 1908. In Kadambankulam alone besides cash rent in some cases grain-rent (half of gross produce) was being collected by the Zamindar. The wet rate collected was Rs. 3-2-0 per acre, dry rates varied from Re. 0-14-0 to Rs. 2-5-0 and the garden rate was Rs. 4-12-7.

*Elayirampannai Mittah*:—The Mittah of Elayirampannai originally belonged to the Zamindar of Maniyachi, Tirunelveli District. It was subsequently divided in pursuance of decrees of Civil Courts for partition into 9 villages which were later separately registered and assessed to peishkash. S. S. Rm. Sundarabalakadiresa Thevar was the proprietor and mittadar of six villages, four of which were in Elayirampannai, one-third or three-fourth state, and the other two being Elayirampannai five-sixteenth and Elayirampannai ten-sixteenth in Sattur Taluk. The other villages are understood to be under the control of the Ettayapuram Zamindar. This mittadar referred to above is understood to have got possession of the villages by right of purchase in court-auction and by private purchase in the years 1925-1936. It is interesting to note that the zamin consists of three parts, one-third five-sixteenth and ten-sixteenth, the sum total of which however exceeds 1. None is able to throw any light as to how these fractions were arrived at. They have, however, continued to be known only by these fractions and even peishkash and cesses were fixed only on these fractions. There is only one tank in this Zamin and it is rain-fed. The wet rate collected in this Zamin was Rs. 2-12-0 per acre the major portions of the ayacut had been in possession of the mittadar himself. The dry rates collected varied from Re.0-9-6 to Rs.1-13-10. In addition to “dry” and “wet” lands in this Zamin there was also the description of “garden” lands applied to the dry lands in which there are wells presumed to have been sunk prior to 1908. The rates applicable to “Garden” lands varied according to the crop raised in the garden Rs. 16-4-10 for tobacco, Rs. 13-12-0 for plantains, Rs. 11 for chillies Rs.5-15-0 for ragi and Rs.2-12-0 for other varieties. It is understood, that these crop-war rates were questioned by the ryots in the suits



filed by them in the court of the Sub-Collector, Sivakasi and that the claims of the landholder to such rates were upheld and that subsequently the ryots came to terms with the Mittadar and a uniform rate of Rs. 11.8 0 per cottah (i.e. Rs. 7-1-4 per acre) was agreed to be paid for "garden" lands irrespective of the number and nature of crops. Besides the above descriptions of lands there appeared to have been in this Zamin a classification, dry or wet, for which rates varying from Rs. 2.0-0 to Rs. 5-12-10 were being collected. This description was not recognised at the time of Rent Reduction and has since disappeared. Black loam of ordinary as well as good variety is the predominant soil. Patches of red loam are also found scattered here and there.

**VADI MITTAH ONE-EIGHTH, ALAGAPURI ONE-EIGHTH, SEVEN-EIGHTH CHINNAVADI ESTATES.**

All the villages comprised in the above estates originally formed part of Vadi Mittah. There were eight shareholders and that explains the fraction one-eighth and seven-eighth. The Zamindar of Perayur owned seven-eighth share of Alagapuri, one of the villages in the Mittah and another Errathayammal owned one-eighth share of Alagapuri. Black loam of an ordinary variety is the predominant soil in these villages. The few tanks that are found in this area are rain fed. In addition to wet and dry lands in the estates also there is a description of garden applied to the lands in which wells presumed to have been sunk prior to 1903 exist. The wet rates collected varied from Rs. 3-2-0 to Rs. 6-0-0 per acre, the dry rates varied from Re. 0-9-1 to Re. 1-11-10, and garden rates varied from Rs. 1-13-10 to Rs. 2-15-7.

**INAM ESTATES.**

*Sattur and Ilampatti.*—These are two Inam Estates belonging to the *Vankateswaraswamy* temple at Sattur. There are no wet lands in these villages. The soil met with in these villages is mainly black loam. There are, however, a few patches of red soils here and there. In Sattur the dry assessment prior to the introduction of the Rent Reduction rates ranged from Re. 0-11-2 to Rs. 1-11-11 per acre, and in Alampatti village it ranged between Rs. 1-13-6 and Rs. 2-0-2. One peculiarity noticed in Sattur village is that besides dry assessment when the sites were used as house-sites, seven times the taram assessment was charged for such occupation. Sattur itself has a Railway Station and it is a fairly big marketing centre.

*Endapuli, Surankudi and Reddiapatti.*—There are three Inam Estates belonging to *Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Devasthanam*, Madurai. Sooragudi is a village situated about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Sattur. There is an irrigation source in this village. The soil is generally red loam.

There are also a few patches of red sand in some dry fields. Endapuli is about six miles South of Virudhunagar. The soil of both these villages are predominantly black loam. There are no wet lands in Endapuli. There is an irrigation source in Reddiapatti. The wet rates in these villages ranged from Rs. 3-10-0 to Rs. 5-1-10 and the dry rates ranged from Re. 0-15-0 to Rs. 3-10-0.

*Nallingaperi*:—Nallingaperi is an Inam village in the Srivilliputtur Taluk located in two blocks separated by some distance from each other. One of the blocks is located close to the ryotwari village of Poovani. Vanakalai Mutt is the landholder of this village. The soil met with is generally red loam of good as well as ordinary variety. There is an irrigation source which has a capacity of three to three and a half months. The soil in the other block is generally black loam.

*Kurukkalkulam*:—This is an Inam Estate endowed for the *Anna-dhana Kattalai* in the *Vedabadrasyee* temple at Srivilliputtur. A part of this village lies in Srivilliputtur Municipal limits. There are two irrigation sources in this village. The soil of this village is generally red loam of ordinary variety. A few cases of commercial crops are also grown on dry lands with the aid of tank water. The dry rates prevalent in the village before the introduction of Rent Reduction rates were Re. 0—14—0 and Rs. 2-3-3 and the wet rate was Rs. 6—0—0 per acre.

#### RYOTWARI SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AREAS IN SATTUR AND SRIVILLIPUTTUR TALUKS.

It will be clearly seen from the previous paragraphs that in the settlements and in the re-settlements already effected in the District as well as in the settlement now in progress in the District consequent on the abolition of the Zamindaris under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, the re-settlement notification approved in G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated 18th March 1911, has been generally adopted.

Fortunately for the estate areas covered by this report, that is, the estates in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks proposed for settlement in this report the question of considering more than one notification as regards its suitability does not at all arise. Even though three villages of Sevalpatti Zamin covered by this report lie in the Sankarankoil Taluk and two other villages of the same estate lie in the Koilpatti Taluk of the Tirunelveli District, they were also re-settled under the same notification for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. The only notification that has to be taken into consideration is the re-settlement notification for Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks approved in G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated 18th March 1911. The only point for consideration is whether that notification can be applied in its entirety to the estate areas in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks, now proposed to be settled or whether any modification is called for.

At the last re-settlement of the Ramanathapuram District irrigation sources were classified according to their nature and capacity into four classes. Finding the above classification not in accordance with modern settlement principles and with a view to provide for an equitable assessment on the lands under a large number of irrigation sources of a rather precarious nature found in the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Estate areas, a fifth class source was ordered to be recognised to accommodate the poorer category of irrigation sources. Irrigation sources were accordingly been ordered to be classified as under :

|              |    |    |    |    |  |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|--|
| First Class  | .. | .. | .. | .. | River-fed sources affording supply throughout the year.  |
| Second class | .. | .. | .. | .. | River-fed sources affording supply for eight months and upwards but throughout the year.                                 |
| Third class  | .. | .. | .. | .. | River-fed or rain-fed sources which ordinarily afford a supply for less than eight months but not less than five months. |
| Fourth class | .. | .. | .. | .. | River-fed or rain-fed sources which ordinarily afford a supply for less than five months but not less than three months. |
| Fifth class  | .. | .. | .. | .. | All sources affording supply for less than three months.   |

(The criterion for classification of irrigation sources is the capacity of the source to hold water over a period of time and not the second crop cultivation which was the basis of classification during re-settlement).

A provision was also made empowering the Settlement Officer, subject to the control of the Director of Settlement and the Board of Revenue, to exercise his discretion in departing from the general principles laid down above and to assign such classification to the irrigation sources as he deems equitable.

It had, however, been ensured that the provision of a fifth class source did not involve any change in the money rates of assessment for wet lands already available in the settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks. All that was done was to step down the 4th class rates by one taram in each case and retaining the lowest wet rate of Rs. 2-4-0 as common for the lowest sort under the fourth class source and the lowest two sorts under the fifth class source.

With regard to classification of soils during the last re-settlement of the Ramanathapuram District, provision was made in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur notification for III, IV, V, VII and VIII classes of soils five sorts being provided for each. And in addition to them a sort, known as VII-A to distinguish the superior red soils in some areas of the Srivilliputtur Taluk was also provided for. In the notifications now published for the ryotwari settlement of the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Estate areas in the District, VII-A soil had been omitted, as there appeared to be no need to retain it as it was not

likely to be met with in the area under settlement. Provision was, however, made for Class VI (Red clay) on the off-chance of it being met with. Provision was also made for the introduction of "arenaceous series"—Classes XII to XIV to accommodate the soils in the coastal tracts of the areas under settlement. Arenaceous series had been ordered to be sub-divided only into three sorts, best, ordinary and worst unlike the five sorts allowed for the other classes.

During the re-settlement all the ryotwari villages in the Ramanathapuram District were placed in the first group and no second group was provided in the notification. In order to give relief to remote and coastal villages in the area which woefully lack communication and marketing facilities a second dry group was introduced in the draft notification for the areas under settlement, the rates for each sort of land in group II being one taram lower than the appropriate rate for the same sort of land in Group I and the last two tarams being retained at the same rate of 3 As. per acre.

Even though during the re-settlement of the ryotwari villages of the Ramanathapuram District only "wet" and "dry" lands had been recognised and provided for, in the draft notification for the ryotwari settlement of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Estates a provision had been made to recognise "*Manavari*" classification. This was done taking into account a considerable area of water-spread lands held on patta and cultivated with advantage with paddy crop and also considerable area cultivated with wet crops by impounding rain-water. Dry lands so situated as to be able to grow paddy crops by the aid of rain water and with water from small springs and ponds, lands where irrigated crops could be raised by raising high bunds and impounding rain water that did not flow to any irrigation source and lands situated in the water-spread of Government irrigation sources, which were admitted to ryotwari pattas under Section 11 of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, and which were not registered as wet under any other irrigation source were ordered to be classified as "*Manavari*" lands. The rates for these lands had been manipulated one taram higher than the appropriate rate for the dry land of the same sort. The adoption of *Manavari* Classification an important departure provided in the draft notification published for the settlement of the Zamindaries was in progress in the Ramanathapuram District.

As already clearly indicated in the earlier portions of this report a peculiar feature in the settlement and re-settlement of the ryotwari areas in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District was the levy of a special tax on palmyra trees. All grown palmyra trees were counted and assessed at certain prescribed rates. The Government ordered that the Palmyra tax should

be abolished in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District without any increase of taram assessment whatsoever. Accordingly no palmyra tax has been proposed to be levied in the estate areas of the District now under settlement.

To sum up, the main modification adopted in the notification published for the settlement of the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Estate areas in the District as compared with the re-settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks are the following :—

1. Provision of five classes of irrigation sources, classification of the sources to be done taking into account only the capacity of the sources and a corresponding provision of rates for lands under fifth class sources by suitable manipulation of the money rates already available in the re-settlement notification.

(ii) Deletion of VII-A Soil, introduction of arenaceous series (XII to XIV) with a provision for three sorts only ; and the introduction of class VI (red clay) soil.

(iii) Provision of second dry group by manipulating the dry rates already available in the re-settlement notification.

(iv) Provision of 'Manavari' class of lands by suitably manipulating the dry rates already available in the re-settlement notification.

(v) Abolition of palmyra tax.

*Abolition of Sivaganga Estate and its conversion into Ryotwari area:*—Sivaganga estate situated in the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts was notified by Government under section 1 (4) of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, hereinafter referred to as the Estates Abolition Act and taken over on the 7th day of September 1949, in accordance with G.O. Ms. No. 2093, Revenue, dated 11th August 1949, as subsequently amended. It was proposed to effect a ryotwari settlement of Sivaganga Estate in accordance with the provision of section 22 of the Estates Abolition Act. A number of other minor zamin under tenure and inam estates lying within the geographical limits of this estate have also been notified and taken over and they are such as can, from their situation and similarity of features be settled with the main estates of Sivaganga under this notification. It was proposed to settle them also along with the main estate Sivaganga under this notification.

*Selection of the appropriate Re-settlement Notification :—*Sivaganga estate is almost wholly situated in the Ramanathapuram District, except for a small portion lying in the adjacent Madurai District. The only two ryotwari taluks of the Ramanathapuram

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1. G.O. Ms. No. 2101, Revenue, dated 12th August 1949,
  2. G.O. Ms. No. 2737, Revenue, dated 18th September 1953,
  3. G.O. Ms. No. 270, Revenue, dated 5th February 1954 and  
G.O. Press Ms. No. 334, Revenue, dated 13th February 1954,

District, viz., Sattur and Srivilliputtur along with the Sankaranayinarkoil and Koilpatti taluks of Tirunelveli District were last resettled in 1911-12, Fasli 1321-1322, in accordance with the principles embodied in the notification appended to G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated the 18th March 1911. Though the major estate of Sivaganga is spread over Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts, the Government consider that under section 22 (2) (b) of the Estates Abolition Act, the re-settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks approved in G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated the 18th March 1911, is the most appropriate one for the settlement of Sivaganga estate in its entirety. From the point of view of geographical situation, similarity of features, etc., the Government consider that the minor zamin, sub-division, under-tenure and Inam Estates specified in the schedule appended, may also be conveniently grouped together and settled under the same notification. The ryotwari settlement of the Sivaganga estate and all the other estates specified in the Schedule will, therefore, follow the principles and rates of assessment set out in the Re-settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of Ramanathapuram District, approved in G.O. No. 785, Revenue, dated the 18th March 1911, except for a few necessary modifications to suit local features in the estate areas under settlement now, as detailed in some places below in the General Policy.

*Abolition of Ramanathapuram Estate and its Conversion into Ryotwari Area:*—Ramanathapuram estate situated in the Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur districts was notified by Government under Section 1 (4) of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948 (herein after referred to as the Estates Abolition Act) and taken over on the 7th day of September 1949 in accordance with the G.O. Ms. No. 2093, Revenue, dated 11th August 1949, as subsequently amended. It is now proposed to effect a ryotwari settlement of Ramanathapuram Estate in accordance with the provisions of section 22 of the Estate Abolition Act. A number of other minor zamins, under-tenure and Inam Estates lying within the geographical limits of the Estates have also been notified and taken over and they are such as can, from their situation and similarity of features, be settled with the main estate of Ramanathapuram under this notification. A list of such estates is given in the schedule appended. It is proposed to settle them also along with the main estate, Ramanathapuram, under this notification. The fasli from which the settlement shall take effect will be notified separately in due course.

*Selection of Appropriate Re-settlement Notification:*—Ramanathapuram Estate is almost wholly situated in the District except for a small portion lying in the adjacent Thanjavur District. The only two ryotwari taluks of the Ramanathapuram district, Sattur and Srivilliputtur along with the Sankaranayinarkoil and Koilpatti taluks of Tirunelveli District were last re-settled in 1911-12 that is

fasli 1321-1322 in accordance with the principles embodied in the notification appended to G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated 18th March 1911. Though the major estate of Ramanathapuram is spread over Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur districts the Government consider that under section 22 (2), (b) of the Estates Abolition Act, the re-settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks approved in G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated the 19th March 1911, is the most appropriate one for the settlement of Ramanathapuram Estate in its entirety. From the point of view of geographical situation, similarity of features, etc., the Government considered that the minor zamin sub-division under-tenure and inam estates specified in the Schedule appended might also be conveniently grouped together and settled under the same notification. The ryotwari settlement of the Ramanathapuram estate and all the other estates specified in the schedule will, therefore, follow the principles and rates of assessment set out in the re-settlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District, approved in G.O. Ms. No. 785, Revenue, dated 18th March 1911, except for a few necessary modification to suit local features in the estate areas under settlement now, as detailed in some places below in the general policy.

#### GENERAL POLICY.

The object of the settlement undertaken was to bring the assessment in the estate areas to a level with the ryotwari tracts of Ramanathapuram District. With this object in view, the lands were inspected by the settlement staff, who were trained in settlement work and every occupied land was given an appropriate classification and sort. There will be no calculation of money tables. All that was done was to copy for each soil and sort, the appropriate money rate from the existing resettlement notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District. At the last resettlement there was a general increase of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent over the wet and dry rates based on the rise of the staple foodgrains since the original settlement.

*Description of lands :—*All lands at the disposal of the Government which are now used or which may be required for communal public or Government purposes will be registered as porambokes. Lands at the disposal of the Government, which are not required as porambokes, but which are readily cultivable and available for assignment will be classed as wet or dry or manavari, subject to the provisions relating to ground rent and special rate lands.

Channels, paths and other similar porambokes not exceeding 20 links in width, will be shown as details and not as sub-divisions, except in special cases or where they pass through inam lands. The inclusion of poramboke lands in registered holdings does not alter the tenure of such lands or confer any right over such land on the registered holders in whose fields the poramboke lands are included and the Government do not forego or abandon any of their rights in such lands.

The following are the money rates adopted :—

TABLE A: WET RATES.

| Class and sort of soil. |     |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |           | Classification of Sources. |           |           |           |               |           |              |           |               |  |             |  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|--|-------------|--|
|                         |     |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |           | First Class.               |           |           |           | Second Class. |           | Third Class. |           | Fourth Class. |  | Fifth Class |  |
| III                     | IV  | V   | VI  | VII | VIII | XII | XIII | XIV |           | Rate.                      | Rate.     | Rate.     | Rate.     | Rate.         | Rate.     | Rate.        | Rate.     | Rate.         |  |             |  |
| (1)                     | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6)  | (7) | (8)  | (9) |           | (10)                       | (11)      | (12)      | (13)      | (14)          |           |              |           |               |  |             |  |
|                         | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..  | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1                  | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1     | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1    | BS. AS. 1 | BS. AS. 1     |  |             |  |
|                         | 2   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..  | 15 0 0    | 15 0 0                     | 13 2      | 10 4      | 8 9       | 6 12          | 5 0       | 4 0          | 3 6       | 2 12          |  |             |  |
| 1                       | 3   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1    | 1   | ..   | ..  | 13 2      | 13 2                       | 10 4      | 9 8       | 6 12      | 5 0           | 4 0       | 3 0          | 2 4       | 2 4           |  |             |  |
| 2                       | 4   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 2    | 2   | 1    | ..  | 10 2      | 10 2                       | 8 8       | 6 12      | 5 0       | 4 0           | 3 0       | 2 4          | 2 4       | 2 4           |  |             |  |
| 3                       | 5   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 3    | 3   | 3    | 1   | 7 8       | 7 8                        | 6 12      | 5 0       | 4 0       | 3 6           | 2 12      | 2 4          | 2 4       | 2 4           |  |             |  |
| 4                       | ..  | 4   | 4   | 5   | 4    | ..  | 3    | 3   | 4 4       | 4 4                        | 4 0       | 3 6       | 3 12      | 2 4           | 2 4       | 2 4          | 2 4       | 2 4           |  |             |  |
| 5                       | ..  | 5   | ..  | 5   | ..   | ..  | ..   | 3   | 3 6       | 3 6                        | 3 6       | 2 12      | 2 4       | 2 4           | 2 4       | 2 4          | 2 4       | 2 4           |  |             |  |



TABLE B: DRY RATES.

| Class and sort of soil. |     |     |     |     |      |     |      |     |              | Dry Group.    |      |  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|--------------|---------------|------|--|
| III                     | IV  | V   | VI  | VII | VIII | XII | XIII | XV  | First Group. | Second Group. |      |  |
| (1)                     | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6)  | (7) | (8)  | (9) | Rate.        | Rate.         |      |  |
| ..                      | 1   | ..  | .   | ..  | ..   | ..  | .    | ..  | ES. AS.      | (10)          | (11) |  |
| 1                       | 2   | ..  | .   | 1   | 1    | 1   | .    | ..  | 2 13         | 1 11          | 1 11 |  |
| 2                       | 3   | 1   | 11  | 2   | 1    | 1   | .    | ..  | 1 11         | 1 2           | 1 2  |  |
| 3                       | 4   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 2    | 2   | 1    | ..  | 1 12         | 0 13          | 0 13 |  |
| 4                       | 6   | 3   | 3   | 4   | 3    | 2   | ..   | 1   | 0 13         | 0 9           | 0 9  |  |
| 5                       | .   | 4   | 4   | 5   | 4    | ..  | 2    | ..  | 0 9          | 0 6           | 0 6  |  |
| ..                      | .   | 5   | 5   | ..  | 5    | 3   | ..   | 2   | 0 6          | 0 4           | 0 4  |  |
| ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..  | 0 4          | 0 3           | 0 3  |  |
| ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..  | 0 3          | 0 3           | 0 3  |  |
| ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..  | 0 3          | 0 3           | 0 3  |  |

TABLE C : MANAVARI RATES.

| Class and sort of soil. |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |      |      | Dry Group. |         |         |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------------|---------|---------|
|                         | III | IV  | V   | VI  | VII | VIII | IX  | X   | XI   | XII  | XIII       | XIV     | Rate.   |
|                         |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |      |      |            |         |         |
| (1)                     | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7)  | (8) | (9) | (10) | (11) | ES. AS.    | ES. AS. | ES. AS. |
| ..                      | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..  | 3    | 6    | 2          | 13      |         |
| 1                       | 2   | ..  | ..  | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..  | ..  | 2    | 13   | 1          | 11      |         |
| 2                       | 3   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1    | ..  | ..  | 1    | 11   | 1          | 2       |         |
| 3                       | 4   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 2   | ..   | 1   | ..  | 1    | 2    | 0          | 13      |         |
| 4                       | 5   | 3   | 3   | 4   | 3   | 2    | ..  | 1   | 0    | 13   | 0          | 9       |         |
| 5                       | ..  | 4   | 4   | 5   | 4   | ..   | 2   | ..  | 0    | 9    | 0          | 6       |         |
| ..                      | ..  | 5   | 5   | ..  | 5   | 3    | ..  | 2   | 0    | 6    | 0          | 6       |         |
| ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | 6   | ..   | 3   | ..  | 0    | 6    | 0          | 6       |         |
| ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | .   | 3   | 0    | 6    | 0          | 6       |         |

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS.

In addition to the two main series of soils namely "Regar" and "Red Ferruginous" adopted in the Resettlement Notification of Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks referred to in Section I above, provision will be made for 'Arenaceous' series, to accommodate the soils in the coastal tracts of the area under settlement. Thus, during the present settlement, the soils will be classified into three main series, namely, 'Regar' 'Red Ferruginous' and 'Arenaceous'.

Each series will be sub-divided into three classes as shown below :—

III means regar or black clay.

IV means regar or black loam.

V means regar or black sand.

VI means Red Ferruginous or red clay.

VII means Red Ferruginous or red loam.

VIII means Red Ferruginous or red sand.

XII means Arenaceous loam.

XIII means Arenaceous sand ( $1/3$  to  $1/10$  clay).

XIV means Arenaceous Heavy sand (Under  $1/10$  clay).

The classes will be further sub-divided into sorts as described below :—

(i) The classes under Regar and Red Ferruginous series will be sub-divided into 5 sorts, namely (1) best (2) good, (3) ordinary, (4) inferior and (5) worst. There will also be a sixth sort, under VIII-Red sand in respect of dry lands only.

(ii) The classes under Arenaceous series will be sub-divided into three sorts, namely (1) Best (2) Ordinary and (3) Worst.

Soils of equal productive capacity will be grouped into corresponding tarams, as shown in the money rate tables. In arriving at these rates the usual percentage deduction has been made on account of unprofitable areas and on account of any roads, channels, banks, paths, etc., included in the holdings by survey.

## III. CLASSIFICATION OF IRRIGATION SOURCES.

At the last resettlement of the Ramanathapuram District, irrigation sources are classified according to their nature and capacity into four classes. In view of the large number of irrigation sources of rather precarious nature, found in the estate areas of Sivaganga, the Government consider that provision should be made for a V Class source, to accommodate the poorer category of irrigation sources, during the present settlement of these estate areas. Irrigation sources will, therefore, be classified on the following broad principles;

*First Class Sources* will usually comprise river-fed sources affording supply throughout the year.

*Second Class Sources* will usually comprise river-fed sources which ordinarily afford a supply for 8 months and upwards, but not throughout the year.

*Third Class Sources* will usually comprise all sources, river-fed or rain-fed, which ordinarily afford a supply for less than 8 months but not less than 5 months.

*Fourth Class Sources* will usually comprise all sources, riverfed or rainfed, which ordinarily afford a supply for less than 5 months but not less than 3 months.

*Fifth Class Sources* will usually comprise all sources affording a supply for less than 3 months.

These principles of classification are laid down for general guidance, but the settlement Officer, may for reasons to be recorded, and subject to the control of the Director of Settlements and the Board of Revenue, exercises his discretion in departing from the general principles laid down above and may assign such classification to the irrigation sources as he deems equitable.

If, at any time, during the currency of the Settlement a defect on account of which an irrigation source has been placed in a lower class, is remedied by the Government or if any improvement to any irrigation source is effected by the Government and generally when dry or manavari lands are converted into wet or if any new sources are constructed by the Government, the Government shall be at liberty to revise the Settlement classification or to assign a suitable classification to such sources, and to impose such wet rate as they deem fit, on the lands commanded by such sources.

*Double Crop Charge : (a) Registered Double Crop Lands:—*Lands which in all ordinary seasons have an unfailing supply of water for two crops will be registered as "Double Crop" lands in accordance with the provisions of Board's Standing Order No. 1 (1) (4). The lands so registered as "Double Crop" will be eligible for remission of the difference between the double and single crop charges, if the water supply be insufficient for two crops in any year.

*(b) Registered Single Crop Lands:—*The charges for a second crop on land registered as single crop wet, will be one half of the single crop assessment.

*(c) Compounded Double Crop Lands:—*Holders of registered single crop lands will be given the option of compounding the charge for the second crop at the appropriate double crop rates shown below, where the supply of water is not ordinarily unfailing.

On lands under a *Second class source* at a consolidated charge for two crops at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of the single crop charge except for the lands on which single crop assessment is Rs. 10-4-0. For these, the change for composition shall be Rs. 15-4-0.

On lands under a *Third Class Source* at a consolidated charge for two crops at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of the single crop charge except for the lands on which the single crop assessment is Rs. 10-4-0. For these, the charge for composition shall be Rs. 14-6-0.

On lands under a *Fifth Class Source* at a consolidated charge for two crops at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of the single crop charge.

On lands under a *Fourth Class Source* at a consolidated charge for two crops at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of the single crop charge. Where the irrigation under sources placed in the second, third, fourth, and fifth classes is supplemented by substantial private wells, the excess over the single crop charge levied for the second crop will be reduced by one-half. Lands charged at compound rates are not entitled to separate remission of the second crop and the full compounded rate will be collected even in the cases where only one wet crop is raised. Ryots who wish to compound the second crop charge on their lands should apply to the Assistant Settlement Officer, Sivaganga or the Settlement Officer, Madurai.

The Government reserve the right to register any land as Double Crop wet during the currency of the settlement, if the supply of water to such land is found to be ordinarily unfailing and to alter the charge on the land so registered as Double Crop wet so as to include the charge for second crop.

#### IV. DRY GROUPING.

At the last resettlement all the villages in the ryotwari areas of the Ramanathapuram District were placed in the first group and no second group was provided in the resettlement notification. In order to give relief to remote and coastal villages in the area under settlement, a second dry group was proposed to be introduced.

#### V. REVISION OF WET AYACUTS.

*Fixation of Ayacuts.*—The ayacuts under each irrigation source as per the Revenue Accounts prior to settlement will be adopted as the ayacut under each source, after effecting transfer of the lands from wet to dry or *manavari* or from dry or *manavari* to wet, on the principles enumerated below. When an ayacut is jointly commanded by a number of irrigation sources and is not possible to demarcate the portion irrigated by each source as a special case, it will be registered jointly under all the sources supplying water to it and the rate to be fixed will be the rate applicable with reference to the source of the highest capacity in that group.

*Transfers from dry or manavari to wet:*—Fields registered as dry or manavari, which have been regularly cultivated with wet crops for five years or which in the opinion of the Settlement Officer can be transferred to wet without prejudicing the existing registered wet lands, and fields registered as dry or manavari from which, in the opinion of the Settlement Officer, it is impossible to exclude water from a Government source of irrigation, will be transferred to wet.

*Transfers from wet to dry:*—Fields registered as wet which have not been cultivated with wet crops for five years or which in the opinion of the Settlement Officer, is not advisable to retain as registered wet land, will be transferred to dry. But wet lands deliberately ordered unfit for wet cultivation, not because the supply of water is insufficient, but because the growing of dry crops is more profitable will be retained as wet.

*Transfers from wet to manavari:*—Fields registered as wet which have no recognised source of irrigation and which have been regularly cultivated with *manavari* paddy for five years will be transferred to *manavari*.

When lands are transferred from wet to dry or *manavari*, or from dry to *manavari* or wet or from *manavari* to wet or dry, or from one registered source to another, a soil classification suitable to their new registration will be assigned to them. The wishes of the ayacutdars and the owners of the fields concerned will ordinarily be ascertained and considered before ordering their transfer.

#### V-A PRIVATE TANKS.

Where, in an estate, a ryot had built a tank on lands to which he was entitled to ryotwari patta under the Abolition Act or where a landholder had built a tank on his private or ryot land to which he was entitled to ryotwari patta under the same Act, such tanks were to be treated as private tanks and after the estate had been taken over by the Government, the rules regarding private tanks in B.S.O. 7 (i) (iii) and other relevant Government orders on the subject were to be applied to such cases.

The ayacut of such private tanks was to be charged only the appropriate dry assessment. As regards the beds of such tanks, they were to be free of assessment only where such tanks had been constructed after obtaining the previous permission of the District Collector. In cases, however, where such private tanks had been constructed without obtaining the previous permission of the District Collector and the latter's recognition is sought or given only after such construction, the bed of the tank also was

to be liable to the appropriate dry assessment. The owners of such private tanks also were to abide by the other conditions and instructions laid down by the Government, the Board of Revenue or the Collector of the districts in regard to such matters as repairs to the tanks, surplus weir level, etc., failing which the Collector had to withdraw his recognition of the private work and take further consequential action.

## VI. RAIN-FED TANKS.

In the area under settlement, there are a number of small rainfed, tanks, with ayacuts of 10 acres or less. It is thought that it will tend to general convenience, if the ayacutdars of these tanks will take upon themselves the duty of keeping these tanks in repair. The Government are accordingly prepared where the ayacutdars agree to undertake the maintenance of the tanks from which their lands are supplied, to assess the lands comprised in the ayacut of the tanks, at special rates not exceeding the highest dry rate of the District instead of the full wet rates.

The actual terms are specified below :—

(i) Only rainfed tanks, with ayacut of 10 acres or less are eligible to be dealt with under this scheme.

(ii) Tanks which form links in a chain of irrigation works or which by reason of their situation or for any other reason affect the supply to any Government source will not be eligible to be dealt with under this scheme.

(iii) The beds of tanks handed over for repairs by the ayacutdars will continue to be poramboke and Government property. The ayacutdars will have no right to interfere, in any way, with the rights of other persons to use the tanks. The ayacutdars shall not raise the bund of the tank or the level of its surplus weir, without the special permission of the Collector, or do any act, which, in the opinion of the Collector, will prejudicially affect any other sources of water supply or lands belonging to other persons by submersion or otherwise.

(iv) The ayacutdars will undertake to do the necessary repairs to the tank and to maintain it in a state of efficiency.

(v) The lands registered under these sources will be treated as wet and a special rate, not exceeding the highest dry rate of the District, will be charged such assessment will continue during the currency of the present settlement. The ayacut and the special rates fixed will be liable to revision at future settlement. Remission on the ayacut lands will be granted only in years in which remission is granted on neighbouring dry lands.

(vi) The ayacutdars are prohibited from extending irrigation beyond the present registered ayacuts of the tanks, without the sanction of the Collector. The Government reserve the right to levy water rate on lands irrigated in excess of the ayacut.

(vii) The ayacutdars will be allowed with the permission of the Tahsildar, to cut down, free of charge, any unreserved trees that may be growing on the bed or on the bund of the tank, for use in keeping the tank in repair

(viii) If any or all of the conditions set forth above are not properly fulfilled, the Government shall have the right to levy penal water rate on all lands irrigated from the tank or to cancel the agreement, to take back the tank under its control, to deal with it as they deem fit, and to impose on the fields under the ayacut, or on lands irrigated in excess of the ayacut such assessment and or water rate as they consider appropriate.

Persons desirous of undertaking the maintenance of the tanks on the conditions set forth above should submit their applications to that effect in writing to the Assistant Settlement Officers concerned on or before the dates fixed for bearing of objections to rough pattas. In the case of tanks the ayacuts under which belong to more than one person all the persons interested should present a joint application. Persons who are willing to undertake the maintenance of tanks on the conditions set forth above will be required to execute an agreement in a form prescribed.

## VII. MANAVARI LANDS.

The following types of lands were proposed to be classed as Manavari the settlement :—

(i) Dry lands so situated as above to grow paddy crops by the aid of rain water, and with water from shell springs and ponds.

(ii) Lands where irrigated crops are raised by raising high bunds and impounding rain water, which does not flow to any irrigation source. where those *Achukattus* intercept water flowing to an irrigation source, the classification to be adopted is dry and not manavari.

(iii) Lands situated in the water spread of Government irrigation sources held on patta, and which are not registered as wet under any other Government irrigation source. Water spread wet lands which receive direct irrigation from a Government source distinct from the source in whose water-spread they lie, will however, be retained as wet under the sources giving direct irrigation.



The following special rules will, however, be observed in respect of these manavari lands :—

(i) *Manavari* lands will be treated as dry for purpose of remission.

(ii) *Manavari* lands will be charged water rate only when irrigated by direct flow or baling from a Government source of irrigation and in no other circumstances. The right to charge ordinary and enhanced water rate for the use of water from a well or pond used for communal purposes is, however, reserved.

(iii) When water-rate is charged, only ordinary dry rate and no manavari rate will be charged in addition to it.

Transfer of *manavari* lands to wet or dry or vice versa will be effected by the Settlement Officer, wherever necessary and with the consent of the ryots concerned, if possible. In such cases where ryots object to the transfer of lands from manavari to wet or vice versa during the course of settlement of estate areas, the discretion vests entirely with the Settlement Officer to take a decision.

#### VIII. WATER CESS ON DRY OR MANAVARI LANDS.

The levy of water rate will be governed by Board's Standing Order No. 4 and their rules prescribed by the Government from time to time, applicable to the ryotwari areas of the Ramanathapuram District.

#### IX. LANDS IRRIGATED FROM WELLS.

*Lands irrigated from private wells:*—Lands irrigated solely from private wells situated on occupied lands will be classed as dry and no extra charge will be levied for irrigation from those wells.

*Lands irrigated from poramboke wells:*—Poramboke wells having a regular wet ayacut of not less than three acres will be classified as irrigation sources and their ayacuts registered as wet, with appropriate wet assessment, the usual baling remission being allowed. In the case of other wells on porambokes, including those having an ayacut of less than three acres of wet lands, the lands around them will be treated as dry and appropriate water cess charged for their irrigation from the wells; but if in individual cases, the ryots are able to show that the wells are private wells constructed prior to 20th August 1884, no water will be charged for the irrigation of dry lands from them.

*Lands irrigated from Doruvu Wells:*—Lands irrigated solely from *doruvu* wells will be classed as dry and are charged water-rate for irrigation in accordance with the instructions contained in Board's Standing Order No. 1 para i (8). In the case of *doruvu* wells

constructed before 8th May 1937, irrigation therefrom will be charged with water cess at one fourth or one eighth of the water cess that would be leviable for irrigation by direct flow of first wet crops on dry lands irrigated from sources on the banks of which the *doruvu* wells are situated, according to as water is raised by single lift or double lift. In the case of the latter constructions made on or after 8th May 1937, the charge will be made according to the number and nature of the crops grown, the usual baling remission alone being allowed.

#### X. LANDS IRRIGATED BY BALING.

Lands irrigated by baling and registered in the estate accounts as wet, will unless they have continuously been cultivated with wet crops during the last five years, be classed as dry. When water is taken from a Government source for the irrigation of dry crops on these lands or on lands already registered as dry, a water charge equal to half the difference between the wet and dry assessment will be imposed in addition to the dry assessment, one half of the water-rate thus arrived at being remitted for baling. When a wet crop is raised on such lands, a water charge equal to the difference between the dry and the wet assessment will be imposed in addition to the dry assessment, a deduction of one rupee per acre being allowed on account of lift in the case of lands registered on wet at the present settlement on the principles detailed above.

(b) The baling ayacuts will be inspected and revised wherever necessary. If these lands are irrigated by baling from the one source and by direct flow from another source, the rate will be worked out separately for each source and the higher of the two will be applied.

#### XI. ACHUKATTUS.

The Government reserve the right to impose at any time during the period of settlement whatever additional assessment they may deem necessary on any dry land on which wet crops are or dry may hereafter be raised by the aid of *Achukattus* in a manner which, in the opinion of the district authorities, is objectionable.

#### LANDS IN THE WATERSPREAD OF IRRIGATION SOURCES.

Lands in the waterspread of Government irrigation sources which are held on patta will, unless they are shown in the revenue accounts as wet and are also irrigated from and included in the ayacut of a source different from and unconnected with the one in the waterspread of which they are situated, be classed as *manavari*.

### XIII. GROUND RENT.

During the present settlement, ground rent will be imposed on all lands used for non-agricultural purposes and all sites of buildings and the appurtenances thereto lying within the limits of towns, whether the lands are built upon or not. The rate of ground rent will be the minimum rate of ground rent prevailing in the towns concerned or as may be specifically prescribed by the Government. The Government also reserve the right to impose at any time during the currency of the settlement, whatever ground-rent they may deem necessary on lands assigned subsequent to the date of this notification, if they are used for building purposes.

### XIV. TREES.

A peculiar feature in the settlement and re-settlement of the ryotwari areas in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District has been the levy of a special tax on palmyra trees. All grown palmyra trees were counted and assessed at certain prescribed rates. In the case of the palmyrah trees standing on patta lands, the total of the assessment thus arrived at, rounded to the nearest anna, was entered in the patta of the land pattadar. There were also cases in which pattas had been issued in respect of the trees alone at the specified rates, without conveying any rights on the lands on which they stood, the lands remaining assessed wastes, though wherever possible, attempts were made to persuade the tree pattadar to take a patta for the land also. The Government have ordered that the Palmyra Tax be abolished in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks of the Ramanathapuram District without any increase of taram assessment whatsoever and consequently no such tax is proposed to be levied in the estate areas in the District. In regard to palmyra as well as other trees standing on poramboke or waste lands, the rights of the Government will be the same as in the settled areas of the District, and their disposal will also be governed by the same conditions as prevailing in the settled areas.

### XV. FISHERIES.

**Fishery rights vesting in the Government on the nounced date shall be dealt with as shown below :—**

(i) in the case of tanks with the water spread of 50 acres or more, the fishery rights will be sold in public auction annually.

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1. G.O. Ms. No. 2101, Revenue, dated 12th August 1949,
  - G.O. Ms. No. 2737, Revenue, dated 18th September 1955,
  - G.O. Ms. No. 270, Revenue, dated 5th February 1954 and
  - G.O. Press No. 334, Revenue, dated 13th February 1954.

(ii) in the case of tanks with a water spread of less than 50 acres, the Settlement Officer may (a) grant fishery or any rights to the holders of wet lands under the tanks annual rental of Re. 0-2-6 per acre or (b) in appropriate cases, grant such rights on patta to an individual or an institution on payment of an annual rental to be fixed by the Settlement Officer, with reference to the revenue likely to be derived from fisheries.

In the case of fishery rights vesting in the Government subsequent to the notified date, Government reserve the right to dispose of such rights in the above manner.

#### XVI. INCREMENT REMISSION.

Where as a result of the ryotwari settlement the total assessment payable on a holding is increased by more than 25 per cent over the land revenue fixed as payable under section 23 of the Estates Abolition Act (XXVI of 1948), the increased assessment will be imposed gradually, i.e., by increases spread over a series of years in accordance with the rules laid down below :—

This temporary abatement of the full settlement assessment is called "*increment remission*." In estimating the increase which will give a claim to increment remission enhancement due to

(i) increases in areas by survey and re-survey.

(ii) increases due to transfer of land from dry or manavari to wet and dry to manavari ; and

(iii) increases due to the transfer of single crop to double crop will not be considered.

Increases due to other causes will, however, be taken into account and in these cases, increases in area up to 10 per cent of the original extent will be disregarded and the increment remission admissible will be calculated on the total enhancements of the new assessments on the holding, over the land revenue fixed under Act XXVI of 1948. If the increase in assessment on the holding is, over the land revenue fixed under Act XXVI of 1948, and if the increase in assessment in individual cases, exceeds 25 per cent of such land revenue, an amount equal to such land revenue plus 25 per cent thereof will be levied at once and the remainder by annual increments equal to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of such land revenue. Increment remission will not be granted when the total increase on a holding does not exceed Rupee one. It is, however, clearly to be understood that if the whole or a portion of the land held by a pattadar previous to the settlement is relinquished or transferred the full assessment will be charged for the lands remaining in this patta and for those which have passed to other hands. This rule, however, will not apply to case in which the

change in the holding may be due to causes beyond the pattadars' control, i.e., where a portion of his land was washed away by flood or he is obliged to relinquish it or where a piece of land is taken up for public purposes. In the latter class of cases, the excess assessment upon what remains of the holding will be levied in the same number of instalments as those fixed for the entire holding. Similarly, when one of the joint holders of a patta transfers his interest therein either to a co-pattadar or to a stranger increment remission will not be granted.

## XVII. REGISTRY OF HOLDINGS.

At the settlement, pattas for the lands will be issued to persons possessing rights to them, in accordance with the registry made in the Survey and Settlement Registers, prepared on the basis of the village accounts, enquiry and the provisions of the Estates Abolition Act and other relevant Acts.

## XVIII. ROUGH PATTAS.

*Issue:—*At the time of settlements, a rough patta will be issued through the village headman to each of the persons registered in the Land Register, showing the survey number and sub-division, the old number or sub-divisions or letters, if any and the description of the land (Government or inam, wet, manavari or dry, etc., the registered source of irrigation, taram, rate survey area and the settlement assessment imposed.) Every endeavour will be made to secure prompt delivery of these rough pattas to the registered holders concerned; but non resident and absentee registered holders must make their own arrangements to obtain the pattas from the village headmen.

*Objections to be heard:—*Notices of the time and place fixed for hearing objections will be pasted in the village *chavadi*, if there is one, or in some other conspicuous place in the village, and will be published in the village by beat of tom tom, not less than 10 days prior to the date of hearing. The headman and the *karnam* will attend at the time and place fixed for the disposal of objections. Orders passed at the hearing will be communicated then and there to the parties concerned. No objection petition will be received by the Assistant Settlement Officer after the date notified in the manner prescribed above, unless the delay in presenting the petition is explained to his satisfaction.

Errors found in the entries of rough pattas with regard to survey numbers, are as names of registered holders, and the registration of lands as Government inam, poramboke, wet, dry or the like

can be corrected at any time during or after settlement, if brought to notice by the party interested, but petitions for alteration of demarcation will not be entertained.

*Objection Barred*.—No objection will be admitted as to rates of assessment which will be imposed on lands in accordance with this notification.

*Appeals*.—Appeals shall lie to the Settlement Officer against the orders passed by the Assistant Settlement Officer and to the Director of Settlement against the orders passed by the Settlement Officer. Parties must obtain the written orders of the Assistant Settlement Officer or Settlement Officer before filing appeals. Such appeals shall be preferred to the Settlement Officer within 30 days and to the Director of Settlements within 3 months from the date of communication of the order appealed against. Appeal petitions need not be stamped but copies and enclosures appended thereto should be stamped in accordance with the rules.

#### XIX. RELINQUISHMENTS.

If during the settlement, it is found impossible to issue the rough pattas before the date fixed under Board's standing order 33 (2) for the acceptance of relinquishments during the fasli in which rough pattas are issued, the time within which relinquishments may be made will be extended until a month after the close of the enquiry into objections to the rough pattas in order to enable ryots to make with reference to the revised conditions of assessments now imposed. Lands relinquished must consist of entire survey fields or entire sub-divisions which are separately recorded in the rough pattas.

#### XX. KISTBANDI.

The system of Kistbandi prevailing in the settled areas of the District in which the villages under settlement are situated will be extended to the respective villages.

#### XXI. DURATION OF SETTLEMENT.

The settlement will be in force till it is altered by a re-settlement. In the course of such re-settlement, the Government reserve to themselves the right to revise the assessment on lands in such a manner as may then seem just and proper, but no enhancement of assessment will then be made in respect of any additional value which may have been imparted to the land by improvements effected by the ryots, whether such improvements have been carried out by money borrowed from the Government or otherwise.

The Government reserve the right to alter or revise during the currency of the present settlement, the classification of the lands adopted at the settlement and to impose additional assessment or to substitute ground-rent for assessment, as the case may be, in the following cases :—

(i) Where a second wet crop or irrigated dry crop is raised on registered single crop wet lands.

(ii) Where, on lands classed as dry, wet crops or may hereafter be raised by the aid of Achukattus ;

(iii) Where lands assigned subsequent to the date of the settlement notification are used for building purposes.

(iv) Where the irrigation of the land has been improved by the Government during the currency of the settlement.

(v) Where the lands have been included in the ayacut of any irrigation source constructed or extended by the Government during the currency of the settlement.

(vi) Where dry lands are converted into wet ; and

(vii) Where the lands are included in the water-spread of a tank

The Government also reserve the right to change from time to time the rate of water cess and the method of calculating it in the case of lands not registered as wet.

*Land Reforms:*—It was realised that the main cause for the social instability in predominantly agricultural societies is the agrarian discontent due to the continuance of a system of land tenure which are completely out of place in a modern world. Thus land reforms are undertaken in order to promote on the one hand the well-being and contentment of the individual and on the other the stability of the society. Generally, land reforms impringe upon a number of agrarian problems such as the methods of farming and land use, the distribution of landownership and the legal and customary institutions of land tenure, rural social conditions and the political forces which work for and against the social change. These land reforms in the end aim at a better distribution of income and a greater social equality.

In the Madras State the land reform took the form of (1) Tenure reforms, (2) Revenue reforms, (3) Tenancy reforms, (4) Fixation of ceiling on lands, (5) Agricultural Labour Legislation and (6) other land reform movements.

*Tenure Reforms:*—After the introduction of provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act, 1935, the Congress Ministry in Madras appointed the Madras Estate Land Act Committee in 1937 to review the situation in the zamindari and inam lands and to suggest remedies. The committee submitted its report in 1938.

The committee in its report recommended the fixing of rents payable by the tenants according to the rate in force in the year preceding the permanent settlement, i.e., 1801. If the rents payable in 1801 were grain rents, it wanted the rents to be commuted at the prices prevailing in 1801. Besides, the Committee wanted to declare illegal the appropriation of all communal lands and forests by the Zamindars and they supported the idea of converting them into communal property for the village. The committee also wanted to give the ryots the right to work the minerals in their lands.

During 1939 to 1945, the popular governments were not functioning and the reform of land tenure was not attended to. In 1947, with the attainment of independence, there was much public interest in the reform of land tenure systems both in the zamindari and ryotwari regions. The whole interest in the land reforms developed from the acute realisation of the economic backwardness of the bulk of the tenants and rural population of the districts.

#### (I) PREVENTION OF ALIENATION OF ZAMINDARI LANDS.

The first step in the direction of land reforms was the abolition of the Zamindari System which had not only interfered with the direct relationship between the State and the ryots but had also made the peasants the victims of many exactions. But from the outlook of the leaders of the Indian National Congress and from the recommendations of the Economic Programme Committee of the Congress 1947, the Zamindars have understood that the estates would be abolished as quickly as possible. With a view to check the alienation of the communal forests and private lands in the Zamindari estates as a method of evading the legislation for the abolition of Zamindari System the Madras Estates Communal Forests and Private Lands (Prohibition of Alienation) Act was passed in 1947. This law prohibits any alienation of the above-mentioned varieties of land in the Zamindari estates by sale, mortgage, lease or assignment or by any other method. It was stipulated that any violation of the Act was punishable by a fine upto Rs. 8,000 ; or imprisonment for two years or by both.



The law, however, did not interfere with transactions made before 27th June, 1947, resulting in the alienation of land in favour of any religious, charitable or educational institutions or in favour of hospitals, co-operative societies or other public bodies and institutions. The law also did not interfere with transactions arrived at before that date not involving more than 20 acres of land and transfers of land to other persons judged to be done in good faith and on worthy consideration. The District Judge was empowered to decide on the disputes arising out of the transactions and his decisions were final.

This legislation passed on the eve of the momentous land reforms legislation introduced for the abolition of the Zamindari System had the beneficial effect of preventing whole sale alienation of land by Zamindars with a view to circumventing some of the provisions of the zamindari abolition legislation.

#### (ii) REDUCTION OF RENT FOR ZAMINDARI TENANTS.

It was found essential that the ryots under the Zamindars should be given immediate relief before the final abolition of the Zamindari System. The Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947, provided for the reduction of rent payable by the ryots in Zamindari estates approximately to the level of assessment on similar lands in the ryotwari areas in the neighbourhood. The Act envisaged the appointment of a Special Officer who should first determine the average rate of cash rent per acre prevailing in the principal village of the estate for different kinds of land, such as wet, dry and garden land. The Special Officer was also to determine the average rate of assessment in the ryotwari area nearest to the principal village in which conditions were similar to those obtaining in the principal village. He was then to compare the rates for the respective areas (the principal village of the estates and the neighbouring ryotwari areas) and to determine the extent to which the rents payable by the tenant to the Zamindar should be reduced. He should finally fix the actual rate of rent payable by each class of land. In fixing rents he should allow for any difference in the conditions of land prevailing in the Zamindari and ryotwari lands respectively. The reduced rates of rent recommended by these officers were notified in the Gazette so that they might take effect from the commencement of the fasli 1357 (1947-48). The Board of Revenue should give their approval to the recommendations of the Special Officer before their final publication in the Gazette. This legislation was passed with the object of eradicating the evil of rack renting in the Zamindari estates. The reduction of rent to the level of ryotwari land revenue assessment prepared the ground for the introduction of legislation for the final abolition of the Zamindari System and its replacement by ryotwari tenures.

**Zamindari Abolition:**—In many estates in the State of Madra the rent levied by landholders from the ryots was substantially in excess of the assessment charged by the Government on similar lands in the neighbouring ryotwari area and was beyond the capacity of the ryots to pay. In some estates the rent was payable in cash while in some other estates the rent was payable in kind or both in cash and kind. The Zamindari System had perpetuated an assessment which had no relation to the productive capacity of the land. It had further led to loss of contact between the Government and the actual cultivator and had acted as a brake to agricultural improvement.

The question of introducing certain reforms in the land system with a view to removing all the intermediaries between the cultivator and the State and making the cultivator to take interest in his land had been long under the consideration of the Government. The abolition of the zamin, inam, and under-tenure estates was only a first step towards achieving the above object.

The Economic Programme Committee of the Congress (1948) recommended that all intermediaries between the tiller and the State should be eliminated and all middlemen should be replaced by non-profit making agencies such as co-operatives. Between 1948 and 1953 almost every state in India introduced legislation for the abolition of Zamindari System. In Madras the Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill was introduced in the legislature in 1947. The Bill was passed into law in 1948 and the Act (Madras Act XXVI of 1948) received the assent of the Governor-General in 1949. The main objects of the Act were to repeal the permanent settlement, acquire for the State the rights of the landholders in permanently settled and certain other estates and to introduce ryotwari settlement in those areas. So far as inam estates were concerned, only those villages which became estates under the Madras Estates Land (Third Amendment) Act, XVIII of 1936 came under the purview of the Act.

Section 4 of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act provided for the appointment of a Director of Settlement to carry out the survey and settlement operations in the estates taken over under the Act. Provision was made in Section 5 for the appointment of one or more Settlement Officers who were subordinates to the Director of Settlements. The Act provided for the recognition of the rights of the land-holders that is, the proprietors of the estates to ryotwari patta for all other private lands and ryot lands under their personal cultivation for the period specified in Sections 12 to 14 of the Act. In respect of lands in which the *kudivaram* right was held by the ryots, provision was made in section 11 of the Act for the grant of ryotwari patta to the ryots. The landholders were compensated for the losses of their *melvaram* right. In

the matter of grant of ryotwari pattas to the landholders, appeals were provided to the estates abolition tribunals constituted under section 8 of the Estate Abolition Act while in regard to grant of pattas to the ryots, revisions were provided to the Settlement Officers, the Director of Settlements and the Board of Revenue.

Section 17 dealt with the recognition of service tenure grants which acquired the status of minor inams in ryotwari villages on such recognition.

In the case of buildings including the sites on which they stood and adjacent premises used as appurtenances thereto provision was made in Section 18 of the Act for recognising the rights of the person who owned them immediately before the notified date.

Sections 21 and 22 provided for the survey and settlement of the ~~ex~~-estate areas. The survey effected under Section 21 of the Act had the same legal effect as one done under the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act, VIII of 1923. For effecting a ryotwari settlement, a notification was published under Section 22 embodying the principles under which the settlement would be effected. The re-settlement notification in force in the District in which the estate was situated was chosen and the rates and the principles contained in the re-settlement notification provided for the classification of soils and of irrigation sources, application of the rates of assessment and other matters incidental thereto, such as issue of pattas to the registered holders and conduct of Final Settlement Enquiry.

Sections 27 to 30 dealt with the calculation of compensation for Zamindari estates, Section 21 to 35 dealt with the calculation of compensations for inam estates, and Section 36 dealt with the principles to be adopted for the calculation of compensation for under-tenures estates. In the matter of fixation of compensation pre-settlement under-tenure estates were given the same status as inam estates while post-settlement under-tenure estates were treated on a par with the Zamindari estates. The assessment imposed during settlement on lands occupied by persons other than the landholders and the miscellaneous revenue derived from other sources such as fisheries, water charge, forest produce, etc., were taken into account for fixing the compensation. The main points of difference between the zamindari estates and the inam estates in the matter of determination of compensation were that in the former one-third of the ryotwari assessment and one-third of the miscellaneous revenue were taken into account, while in the case of the latter the whole of the ryotwari assessment and the whole of the miscellaneous revenue were taken into consideration. In the case of inam estates held by religious, educational and charitable institutions, the compensation was not paid in a lump sum but annual grants known as the "Tasdic allowance" were made under Section 38 (1) to enable the institutions to function without interruption. Where the "Tasdic"

allowance so determined was less than the difference between the average net annual income derived by the institution from all sources in the estate during the five complete fasli years prior to fasli 1357 and the income derived by the institution from the land granted to it on ryotwari patta, the deficiency was made good to the institution every year under Section 38 (2) by way of additional compensation. Such grants will be made to the institutions so long as they exist. The compensation payable to an estate could not be determined before the process of survey and settlement was completed. As it would take some time for effecting ryotwari settlement after an estate was taken over, interim payments were made to the landholders as provided for in section 50. These payments were made every fasli from the fasli year in which an estate was taken over up to the fasli year in which the compensation as finally determined was deposited with the Estates Abolition Tribunal.

The salient features of this reform are that the high rates of rents in cash and kind which prevailed in the ex-estate areas were abolished altogether, the assessment payable in each land was fixed after a scientific classification of soil and of irrigation sources and the holders of land were made liable to pay the assessment direct to the Government and the intermediaries were abolished.

*Basic Annual sum for Zamindari Estates:*—Articles 27 of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act of 1948.

In the case of a Zamindari Estate, the basic annual sum shall be the aggregate of the sums specified below :—

(i) One third of the gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of all lands in the estates (excluding lanka lands) in respect of which any person other than the land-holder is entitled to a ryotwari patta less the deduction specified under section 28.

(ii) One-third of the gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of :—

(a) all lanka lands in the estate in respect of which a person other than the land-holder is entitled to a ryotwari patta.

(b) all lanka lands which in the opinion of the Government are sufficiently permanent to enable the levy thereon of ryotwari assessment, as ascertained under section 28 in so far it may be applicable less the deductions specified therein.

(iii) One third of the average net annual income derived from all lanka lands in the estate other than those:—

(a) in respect of which a ryot or land-holder is entitled to a ryotwari patta; and

(b) which in the opinion of the Government are sufficiently permanent to enable the levy thereon of ryotwari assessment, as ascertained under section 29 less the deduction specified therein.

(iv) One third of the average net annual miscellaneous revenue derived from all other sources in the estate but not including lands in respect of which the landholder is entitled to a ryotwari patta, as ascertained under section 30; and

(v) the whole of the jodi, kattubadi or other amount, if any (excluding local cesses and taxes) payable annually to the landholder of the estate immediately before the notified date, by the landholder of every inam village or undertenure estate, including the value as ascertained in the prescribed manner, of whatever was delivered in kind annually.

**Section 28:—** Computation of ryotwari demand and deductions there from :—

(i) The Gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of the referred to in section 27 (clause i and ii) shall be the total of the ryotwari assessment imposed, in pursuance of a settlement effected under section 22, on the lands occupied by any person other than the landholder on the notified date.

(ii) The deduction referred to in section 27, clause (i) and (ii) shall be:—

(a) Five per cent of the gross annual ryotwari demand as computed above in respect of the lands referred to in the said clause and as the case may be, on account of the establishment charges, deficiencies in collection and the like ; and

(b) Three-and-one third per cent of such gross demand on account of the maintenance of irrigation works in the estate ; provided that no deduction shall be made on account of the maintenance of irrigation works, if there is no such work serving the estate or if the landholder is under no legal obligation to maintain any such work serving the estate ; provided further that where the obligation of landholder to maintain everyone of the irrigation works serving the estate is shared by him either with the Government or with the landholder of some other estate, the per centage of deduction on account of the maintenance of irrigation works shall be reduced by such extent as the Government may deem reasonable.

**Article 29:—**Computation of income from the lanka lands :

(1) The average net annual income from the lanka lands referred to in Section 27, (clause iii) shall be the average of the net annual income derived by the land holders from such lands during a period of twenty complete fasli years immediately preceding the notified date.

**Article 30:—**The average net annual miscellaneous income from the sources referred to in section 27, clause iv, shall be the average of the net annual income derived by the Government from such sources during the fasli year commencing on the notified date, if

such date was the 1st day of July or on the 1st day of July immediately succeeding the notified date, if such date was not the 1st July and the next two fasli years.

For the purpose of compensation, the holders of inam estates were considered on a different footing. Unlike the Zamindar for whom the "basic annual sum" was one-third of the ryotwari demand less deductions for cost of collection and the expenses for the upkeep of irrigation works, for the Inamdar, the "basic annual sum" meant the whole ryotwari demand less the deduction for the maintenance of the irrigation works alone (section 51 to 55). The details for calculating the basic annual sum as set forth in the Act is given below:—

*Section 31:—*Component part of basic annual sum in inam estates of 1948 Act :

In the case of an inam estate, the basic annual sum shall be the aggregate of the sums specified below less the deductions specified in section 35—

(i) The whole of the gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of all lands in the estate (excluding lanka lands) in respect of which any person other than the landholders is entitled to a ryotwari patta as ascertained under section 32, less the deduction specified therein.

(ii) The whole of the gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of all :—

(a) Lanka lands in the estate in respect of which a person other than the landholders is entitled to a ryotwari patta ;

(b) All lanka lands in which in the opinion of the Government are sufficiently permanent (that is to say similar to the permanent portions of the Government lanka lands), to enable the levy thereon of ryotwari assessment; as ascertained under section 32, in so far as it may be applicable, less the deductions specified therein :

(iii) The whole of the average net annual income derived from all lanka lands in the estate other than those :—

(a) In respect of which a ryot or landholder is entitled to a ryotwari patta, and

(b) Which in the opinion of the Government are sufficiently permanent (that is to say, similar to the permanent portion of the Government lanka lands), to enable the levy thereon of ryotwari assessment.

(iv) The whole of the average net annual miscellaneous revenues derived from all other sources in the estate specified in section 3, clause (b) but not including lands in respect of which under the landholder is entitled to a ryotwari patta, as ascertained under section 34.

**Section 32:—**Computation of ryotwari demand and deductions there from :—

(1) The gross annual ryotwari demand in respect of the lands referred to in section 31, clauses (i) and (ii) shall be the total of the ryotwari's assessment imposed in pursuance of a settlement effected on the lands occupied by any person other than the landholder on the notified date.

(2) From the gross annual ryotwari demand as computed above, there shall be a deduction of three and one-third percent of such demand on account of the maintenance of irrigation works in the estates.

**Section 33:—**The computation of income from lanka lands :

The average net annual income from lanka lands referred to shall be the average of net annual income derived by the landholder from such lands during a period of 20 complete fasli years immediately preceding the notified date.

**Section 34:—**Computation of net miscellaneous revenue :

The average net annual miscellaneous revenue from the sources during the fasli year commencing on the notified date, if such date was the 1st July or on the 1st July immediately succeeding the notified date, if such date was not the 1st July and the next two fasli years.

**Section 35:—**Jodi etc. to be deducted from the net annual income :

From the aggregate of the sum referred to in section 31, clauses (i) to (iv) ascertained as aforeaid, these shall be deducted:—

(a) the whole of the jodi, quit rent or other amount if any of a like nature, payable annually by the landholder to the Government and (b) the whole of the jodi, kattubadi or other amount of any (excluding local taxes) payable annually by the landholder of some estate, including the value as ascertained in the prescribed manner of whatever was deliverable in kind annually:

Provided that the amount deducted under clauses (a) and (b) shall in no case exceed one-half of the aggregate of the net amount computed in accordance with sections 32 and 33.

For arriving at the amount to be paid as compensation, the basic annual sum was to be multiplied by a co-efficient. This co-efficient varied from 12 to 80 times ; the former for the largest

Zamindaris and the latter for the smaller Zamindaris, with intermediate co-efficient for estates falling between the maximum and the minimum sizes. The rates of compensation as fixed in the Act are as follows :—

#### SCALE OF COMPENSATION.

*Section 37 of 1948 Act:—* The total compensation payable in respect of any estate shall be determined in accordance with the following scale :—

(1) Where the basic annual sum does not exceed Rs. 1,000—30 times such sum.

(2) Where the basic annual sum exceeds Rs. 1,000 but does not exceed Rs. 3,000—25 times such sum or Rs. 30,000 whichever is greater.

(3) Where the basic annual sum exceeds Rs. 3,000 but does not exceed Rs. 20,000—20 times such sum or Rs. 75,000 whichever is greater.

(4) Where the basic annual sum exceeds Rs. 20,000 but does not exceed Rs. 50,000—17½ times such sum or Rs. 40,000 whichever is greater.

(5) Where the basic annual sum exceeds Rs. 50,000 but does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000—15 times such sum or Rs. 8,75,000 whichever is greater.

(6) Where the basic annual sum exceeds Rs. 1,00,000—12½ times such sum or Rs. 15,00,000 whichever is greater.

The act (section 8) set up a Tribunal consisting of 3 members presided over by a District Judge to decide disputes about the granting of pattas to the ryots. Of the two other members of the Tribunal one should be a Subordinate Judge and the other a Revenue Divisional Officer, both appointed by the Government. The decision of the Tribunal, in the case of disputes about the grant of pattas was and could not be questioned in any court of law.

The amount paid by way of compensation to the Zamindars was to be distributed to the respective claimants through the Tribunal. The Tribunal under sections 41 to 49 was to make inquiry into the validity of the claims received by it and determine who in its opinion was entitled to compensation and the amount to which they were entitled.

As a number of religious and charitable institutions depend upon incomes from inam estates, the Act (in section 38) contained provisions for the payment of "tasdik" allowance to those institutions so that income may not fall as a result of the reforms. The "tasdik" allowances paid to these religious bodies should be on



the first equal to the basic annual sum appropriate for the estate lost by the institution. If the "tasdik" allowances equal to the basic annual sum was lower than the average annual income received by the temple from the estates lost, then the Government would pay additional allowance equal to the difference.

As a result of the introduction of this reform, the last vestiges of feudalism were wiped off; the act also made a definite departure from the recommendations of the Madras Estate Land Enquiry Committee of 1938, which wanted to fix the rent paid by the ryots at 1802 level without abolishing the Zamindaris, by its acceptance of the principles of compensation to Zamindar for his proprietary rights in the land.

The Madras Estate Act came into force in this District on 3rd January 1951, and subsequent dates. The object of the Act is to abolish intermediaries like Zamindars and other landholders, to take over the lands by Government and introduce The ryotwari system so as to bring the land tenure and other conditions on a par with those obtaining in ryotwari areas. Under the provisions of the Act, Managers were appointed to administer the estates taken over so far. 71 Zamindari estates, 5 under-tenure estates and 112 inam estates have been taken over under the abolition Act. The Rent Reduction Act of 1947 is in force from fasli 1357 in 31 estates which have not been taken over.

## 2. REVENUE REFORMS.

In India land revenue assessment in the ryotwari regions was arrived at after elaborate calculations. The lands are classified according to well-defined grades. To each grade of land a grain value is attached. Deductions are made for the cost of cultivation and for any disability the land may face with regard to marketing of produce or in the cultivation of produce. Land revenue is fixed at half of the product got after making all these deductions. In short the land revenue in the ryotwari regions approximate to half the net value of the land.

The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee examined the proposals for the levy of a tax on capital value of the land and finally came to the conclusion that such system will not be suitable to Indian conditions. N. Raghavendra Rao, the Special Officer for Land Revenue Reforms submitted his report in 1946. His report examined the feasibility of basing the rates of assessment on capital or rental value of the land is finally concluded that such a tax will be a tax on improvement and efficiency. If the present value is taken as the basis of calculation, the lands which were neglected will have an unmerited benefit while lands efficiently cultivated will have to pay higher rates of tax.

The Special Officer was also asked to examine the existing system of land revenue settlement and to suggest proposals for reform with particular reference to two principal suggestions.

(1) Levy of low flat rate of assessment with liabilities for agricultural income-tax, on income from land.

(2) Cancellation in whole or in part of the percentage enhancement on the assessment imposed at the re-settlement, in the districts re-settled after the year 1914 which marked the beginning of the rise in the price of foodgrains.

The Special Officer took into consideration the following suggestions to reform the existing system.—

(1) Exemption of small holdings from payment of land revenue.

(2) Imposition of a low flat rate of assessment on all lands and the levy of agricultural income tax on income above a prescribed limit.

(3) Levy of enhanced rates on pattas paying more than a prescribed amount.

(4) Charge of a special rate of assessment of lands cultivated with commercial crops.

(5) Cancellation in whole or in part of the percentage enhancement imposed at the time of the last resettlement of the districts with a view to equalise the incidence of land revenue throughout the province.

After examining the suggestions in detail the Special Officer came to the conclusion that the levy of a basic assessment at a low flat rate for all the lands was not suitable for this State. He was of the opinion that the present rate of assessment should be revised so as to eliminate inequalities in assessment due to the District having been res-ettled at different periods and different commutation rates having been adopted at re-settlement. He has recommended that the percentage enhancement at the re-settlement due to the increase in the prices of food grains should be cancelled in whole or in part in accordance with the proposals, contemplated by the Government in 1939. He was of the opinion that the rates thus revised might be taken to be normal or standard rates of assessment and as these rates were based on very low rates of commutation, they are not likely to cause any hardship to the ryots by prices falling. He recommended that in addition to these basic rates of assessment, an Agricultural Income-tax and also a special charge on lands cultivated with commercial crops might be imposed. He was not in favour of exemption of holdings from land revenue or of the imposition of an enhanced rate on pattas paying more than a prescribed amount. These measures were suggested by him in order to secure an equitable and progressive system of taxation of land.

The Special Officer also viewed the question of imposing the Sales-tax on agricultural product in order to replace the land revenue assessment. It was felt that the yield from Sales-tax during the period of fall in prices of agricultural produce would be low. Besides, expensive machinery would have to be devised for collecting cesses from land unless the rate of Sales-tax was raised in order to meet the funds usually made available from the cess collection.

The land revenue remission granted from 1937 according to the recommendation of Land Revenue Enquiry Committee 1937 was revised by the Special Officer, Raghavendra Rao. It was estimated that the proposed revision would cause a loss of revenue upto Rs. 70 lakhs which was to be made good by levy of Agricultural Income-tax and special charge on lands cultivated with commercial crops.

The Land Revenue Reforms Committee appointed in 1950 submitted its report in 1951. It examined the question of completely replacing the present system of land revenue assessment by an Agricultural Income-tax to make the assessment of land more progressive than at present. This idea of levying an Agricultural income-tax in addition to land revenue assessment was even advanced earlier in 1946 by the Special Officer for Investigation of Land Tenure, but it was not accepted by the Board of Revenue. But the Land Revenue Reforms Committee of 1951, recommended the levy of Agricultural Income-tax as a measure for introducing an element of progress in land revenue assessment. However, it did not support the scheme of replacing the land revenue by Agricultural Income-tax.

The Government have passed the Madras Plantation Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1955 with a view to levying a tax on agricultural incomes from plantations. Any rent or revenue derived from those plantations constitutes agricultural income as defined in the Act. The rates of Agricultural Income-tax are as follows:—

1. On the first Rs. 1,500 of total agricultural income. Nil.
2. On the next Rs. 3,500 of the total agricultural income. Nine pies in the rupee.
3. On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income. One anna and six pies in the rupee.
4. On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income. Two annas and six pies in the rupee.
5. On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income. Three annas and six pies in the rupee.
6. On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income. Four annas in the rupee.
7. On the balance of total agricultural income .. Five annas and six pies in the rupee.

No Agricultural Income-tax is payable on agricultural income less than Rs. 3,000 and on plantation less than 5 acres in extent used for growing tea and not more than 15 acres used for growing

any other crop. In the case of undivided hindu family the exemption limit is fixed at Rs. 6,000 as the case may be. In the case of every company Agricultural Income-tax shall be charged at the maximum rate on the whole of the total agricultural income.

The agriculturists were also given the option to pay the Agricultural Income-tax according to the area of their farms

#### PLANTATIONS FOR GROWING TEA.

| <i>Extent.</i>  | <i>Rate per acre.</i> |
|---|-----------------------|
|   | <b>Rs.</b>            |
| 1. Not exceeding 5 acres .. .. .                        | Nil.                  |
| 2. Exceeding 5 acres but not exceeding 10 acres .. .. . | 9                     |
| 3 Exceeding 10 acres but not exceeding 20 acres .. .. . | 15                    |

#### PLANTATIONS USED FOR GROWING ANY OTHER CROP.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| (i) Not exceeding 15 acres .. .. .                          | Nil. |
| (ii) Exceeding 15 acres but not exceeding 30 acres .. .. .  | 3    |
| (iii) Exceeding 30 acres but not exceeding 60 acres .. .. . | 5    |

#### TENANCY REFORM.

The introduction of the ryotwari settlement in Madras caused the decline of the rural community organisations. These village organisations called "Panchayats" which functioned for all purposes as rural democracies, arose in the past out of the necessity for collective management or irrigation and common utility in the rural areas. The headmen of these rural organisations linked up the villages with the authority of the ruler who gave them protection from external aggression.

The ryotwari system was advocated by the British land settlement authorities because it fixed the responsibility for payment of land revenue on a particular individual and it facilitated collection. But, at the same time, it removed the financial basis supporting the authority of the village headmen and brought about the decline of the corporate rural life. With the decline of the "panchayats" the vital rural services such as the maintenance of roads and irrigation works also declined. The rack renting and eviction of tenants and the fore-closures of mortgages by eradication which assumed menacing proportions at a later period might be attributed to the absence of the good offices of the "panchayats" and its members.

It was the common experience in the District that rent of land in some tracts were high and the tenants in several places were suffering from disabilities in respect of interest on rent and on the advances made to them. As agriculture is a matter of national concern and as the propriety of the State depends on the contented and efficient peasantry it has been demonstrated that the State cannot be indifferent to the conditions of the tenants and the farm labourers.

The Congress Agrarian Reform Committee of 1948 which went into the whole question of agrarian reforms suggested that permanent transferable and heritable rights of cultivation should be granted to the tenants subject to the condition that (1) they did not sublet the land (2) they transferred the right of cultivation to one another according to well defined priorities among the descendants laid down by law and at a price reasonable and speculative and (3) they conform to the test of good agricultural husbandry and the scheme of crop planning prepared by the Government.

The Congress Agrarian Reform Committee suggested a drastic reduction of land rent. It recommended that 25 per cent of the gross produce of irrigated land and 35½ per cent of the gross produce of the unirrigated land might be fixed as rent. The Special Officer for the Reform Land Tenure recommended the following rates of rent for different varieties of land.

|  |    |    |    | Percentage<br>of the gross<br>Produce. |
|--|----|----|----|--|
| Paddy under good sources of irrigation   | .. | .. | .. | 55                                     |
| Paddy under ordinary sources of irrigation   | .. | .. | .. | 50                                     |
| Ordinary and dry land irrigation   | .. | .. | .. | 50                                     |
| Where irrigation is by baling or where irrigation channels require constant repairs. |    |    |    | 33½                                    |

The Madras Land Revenue Reforms Committee considered these recommendations and suggested the following rates of rentals expressed as a percentage of the gross produce. It also recommended that these rates should be applied not only for food crop cultivation but also for commercial crop cultivation.

| <i>Paddy crop.</i>   | <i>Land owners<br/>share per-<br/>centage of gross<br/>produce.</i> | <i>Tenants<br/>share per-<br/>centage of<br/>gross produce</i> |
|--|---|--|
| (1)  | (2)   | (3)  |
| Under first class irrigation source  | 45  | 55   |
| Under irrigation sources grouped as second class and below: (where water is baled, a reduction of 1/3 of the landlord's share is allowed). | 40  | 50   |
| <i>Commercial Crops:</i>   |   |  |
| Whether raised on wet or dry land, eg., turmeric, sugarcane, plantains, onions, etc.   | 40  | 60   |
| Other crops (raised on wet and dry lands).   | 40  | 60   |

**Protection of tenants and farm labourers in the Thanjavur District:—** The exploitation of the tenants and agricultural labourers was general all over ryotwari region. A beginning in tenancy reforms was made in the Thanjavur District, a district noted for its rich delta regions and large landowners. The Tanjore Tenants and Pannayal Protection Act of 1952 was passed to fix rent and wages for the tenants and labourers respectively. According to the Act, the produce at the harvest after deducting all harvest charges should be divided between the landowner and tenant in the ratio of 3 : 2. The tenant was allowed to retain all the straw after giving the customary head loads to the landowner. On the land, the tenant shall give the landowner one fifth of the gross produce of the crop after meeting all cultivation and marketing charges or any other lower proportion that may be agreed upon.

Adult male workers—4 Madras Measures of paddy for a day's work.

Adult women workers—2 Madras Measures of paddy for a day's work.

Child worker—1½ Madras Measures of paddy for a day's work.

The permanent workers on the farm known as *pannaiyals* may also opt for payment according to Mayuram Agreement (an agreement between land-owners and representatives of workers on 28th October, 1948) according to which the following schedule of payment for workers was provided for :

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Worker.        | 2 Madras Measures. |
| Adult Female Worker. | 1½ Madras Measure. |

Along with these regular wages, the *pannaiyal* was to be paid an additional payment of one-seventh of the gross produce of the plots of land on which he has worked as *pannaiyal*.

The Tanjore Tenants and Pannaiyal Protection Act of 1948 was applied to Thanjavur District and Chidambaram Taluk of South Arcot District. The tenants and workers in other districts were left severely alone.

**Protection of the cultivating Tenants of the whole State :—**On the passing of the legislation for the protection of tenants and workers in Thanjavur District the landowners in other districts began to anticipate similar tenant protection legislation. To forestall such legislation they threatened the tenants with eviction. The Government were confronted with the imminent problem of the unjust eviction of tenants all over the State.

The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1965, was passed with a view to prevent the eviction of the tenants by a landowner without adequate cause. According to this Act, the

eviction of the tenant was made illegal except on account of arrears in the payment of the annual rent or if the tenant has acted in a way injurious to the land or the crop or if he wilfully denied the title of the landowner to the land.

The Revenue Divisional Officer was empowered under the Act to order the eviction of the tenant and also for the restoration of a portion of land cultivated by a tenant to the landowners, if it did not exceed 5 acres for the purpose of personal cultivation. The Act was passed mainly to prevent the wholesale eviction of tenants and to help small landowners to get back a portion of land from tenants so as to make a start in personal cultivation.

*Fixation of Fair Rent for the whole State :—*The rent fixed for Thanjavur did not satisfy the tenants and they wanted a reversion of rates. The tenants in other districts were also clamouring for fixation of fair rents.

The Madras Fair Rent Act of 1956, raised the share of the tenant to 60 per cent of the gross produce in the wet land. It provided for a five year term to the tenant and the rent agreed to between the tenant and the landowner is not alterable during the five year period. The dispute between the landowners and tenants arising out of the application of the Act should be brought to the specially constituted Rent Courts presided over by an Officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar.

The Madras Payment of Fair Rent Act 1958, further provides that the tenant will bear all the expenses of cultivation, while the land-owner is to be responsible for the kist and cesses due to local authorities.

The provisions of fair rent stipulated in the Act do not apply to land used for the cultivation of sugarcane, plantain, and betel vines or any other crop which does not give any yield for a continuous period of two years or more from the time of cultivation. Separate agreements have to be arrived at with the landowners, if the tenants wanted to cultivate cash crops. It was also provided for in the Act, that if the tenants cultivated commercial crops without the permission of the landowner, he should pay rent according to the rates applicable to food crops. As this rate would be heavier than the rates normally paid, it was expected to act as a deterrent against the tenants cultivating commercial crops without the consent of the landowner and would force him to arrive at an agreement about the actual rent to be paid. The number of tenants and area under tenant cultivation in the Ramanathapuram District can be seen from the following table. These areas stand to gain by the tenancy legislation passed during the post independence period.

|  | <i>Extent.</i> | <i>Number of<br/>landlord.</i> | <i>Number of<br/>Tenants.</i> |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1)  | (2)            | (3)                            | (4)                           |
| Lands cultivated by landlords directly with the help of hired labour or their own farm servants. | 1,60,318-03    | 37,505                         | ..                            |
| Lands leased by landlords to others for cultivation.   | 83,196-21      | 491                            | 8,546                         |
| Lands personally cultivated by ryot-wari pattadars.  | 10,67,837-14   | 2,95,070                       | ..                            |

*Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings:*—The idea of imposing a ceiling on landholdings has proceeded from the motive of providing land for the landless and for preventing the undue concentration of land in the hands of comparatively a few. The Congress Agrarian Reforms committee who examined this question recommended that the maximum size of individual holdings should be three times the size of the economic holding, which should in turn be determined after elaborate enquiry. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee of 1952, recommended that in future no person should be allowed to acquire holdings carrying an assessment exceeding Rs. 250 and that the sub-division of holdings below the unit of profitable cultivation should be prevented by legislation. There is no single opinion about the size of the economic holding or about the multiple to be applied for arriving at the limit of the maximum size of holdings. In the District about 60 per cent of the holdings are below five acres and 70 per cent are below 10 acres.

The Madras Land Reform (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1960 was passed with a view to limiting the maximum size of a holding for a person or a family not more than five persons to 30 standard acres. In the case of a family of more than five persons, the maximum holding is increased by the addition of five acres for every member of the family, in excess of five. According to the Act one acre of wet land assessed to land revenue at the rate of Rs. 10 and above is taken to be the standard acre. Different sizes have been specified for dry lands. The Government have constituted a Land Board consisting of one Judicial Officer qualified to be a High Court Judge, the Land Commissioner appointed under the Act, the Director of Animal Husbandry and two members nominated by the Government. The Land Board will attend to the disposal of applications for retention of lands for dairy, live stock farms etc. The lands over and above the maximum prescribed under the Act will be acquired on payment of compensation. The compensation paid depends upon the net annual income from the land which is the amount of fair rent less the land revenue. The amount of compensation for land acquired by the Government under this Act is determined in accordance with the following scale; (1) where the net annual income from



the land does not exceed Rs. 5,000, twelve times such income, (ii) where the net annual income from land exceeds Rs. 5,000 but does not exceed Rs. 10,000 eleven times such income, (iii) where the net annual income from land exceeds Rs. 10,000 but does not exceed Rs. 15,000 ten times such income, (iv) where the net annual income from the land exceeds Rs. 15,000 nine times such income.

In the case of religious, educational and charitable trusts there is no ceiling limit on the land holding but the trusts cannot have more than 20 standard acres under personal cultivation.

A list of exemption from the provisions of the Act was also drawn up. Lands belonging to public trust, plantation lands, *gramdan* lands, lands held by sugar factories for the cultivation of sugarcane, orchards or *topes* or arecanut gardens in existence before July 1959 are some of the important items of landholdings exempted from the provisions of the ceiling legislation.

It was estimated that about 80,000 acres might be acquired as surplus for the whole State. During the period 1st March 1967 to 31st December 1970, 58,799 acres of lands were distributed and *pattas* issued to 25,656 landless and deserving agriculturists, in the District.

#### OTHER AGRARIAN MOVEMENTS.

*Co-operative Farming*:—The system of co-operative farming has been suggested by some writers on land tenures as a sure method of ensuring an adequate supply of capital for agriculture: There are four main types of co-operative farming societies.

They are :

- (1) Co-operative Better Farming Society.
- (2) Co-operative Joint Farming Society.
- (3) Co-operative Collective Farming Society.
- (4) Co-operative Tenants, Farming Society

While Co-operative Better Farming and Tenants Farming Societies promote separate cultivation by its members, the Co-operative Joint Farming and Collective Farming Societies promote cultivation as a common-joint venture.

The First and Second Plans have stressed the role of co-operative farming in the reconstruction of the rural economy.

*Bhoodan and Gramdan Movement*:—The land gift movements, as it was popularly known, the "Bhoodan Movement" was started by Acharya Vinoba Bhave with a view to enabling the participation of the people of the village in the redistribution of land holdings among themselves. It is a voluntary movement

directed towards solution of the very vital problem of the rural areas, the problem of the landless, a problem which could not be tackled by the legislative reforms alone. This movement brings into clear focus an entirely new set of values, the use of high moral principles of philanthropy and fellow-feeling, leading to the elimination of the social evils, the inequality and exploitation prevalent in the rural areas.

It was Vinoba Bhave's mission to secure five acres for every landless peasant's family and so he fixed 50 million acres as the target for the Bhoodan collection. As this target area was about one sixtieth of the total area cultivated in India, Vinoba appealed to the landowners to consider the landless as the sixth member of the family and to donate for him one-sixth of the land in the possession of every landowner. If everyone who owns lands donates one-sixth of his possession, the 50 million acres could be easily collected and suitable redistribution of the land would solve completely the problem of the landless.

Some principles have also been evolved for the redistribution of the lands collected. Before distributing the lands in a village the Bhoodan workers ascertained the names of the landless workers in the village. Then the villagers are to be consulted about the most deserving persons among the landless who should be awarded lands. In the selection of deserving persons for land gifts, preference is given to the untouchables.

This movement which began with the collection of gifts of land for the landless is extended to the collection of other gifts so as to supplement land gifts to the peasants. Along with land, such other gifts as wealth, implements for cultivation and services of people are also collected.

Gramdan (Village gift) is yet another phase of the Bhoodan Movement. This movement rests on an act of voluntary surrender of ownership rights by all persons in village for re organising the village on co-operative basis. It emphasises the social ownership as the means of production. According to the Gramdan Movement, private ownership of land is undesirable both socially and ethically.

This Movement in initial stages is directed towards checking the exploitation of the village by a host of intermediaries and professionals such as traders, money lenders, etc. It also ultimately aims at altering the outlook of the villagers which is basically individualists and wants to replace it by an approach characterised by social cohesion and comradeship.

The State Government passed the Bhoodan Yagna Act of 1959, in order to facilitate the donation of lands and the transfer and settlement of such lands of individual peasants. The Act

contained provisions for constituting a State Board of ten members for a term of four years in whom will vest all the rights of ownership and distribution of the lands donated. The Board is also empowered to appoint sub-committees called local committees each committee consisting of not more than five members, subject to the approval of the Government in order to attend to Bhoodan work in a district or part of the district. The State Board is given the powers to grant land to landless poor persons. The Government exempted from stamp duty and registration fees all lands transferred under Bhoodan regulations.

In the case of Gramdan lands, the right of ownership is vested with the Sarvodaya Panchayat which shall arrange for the cultivation of the land and distribute it among the members and carry out other tasks such as reclamation of land, soil, conservation, irrigation and other improvements. The State Board is also given the powers for the overall supervision of the functioning of the Local Boards, the Sarvodaya Panchayats and other committees constituted under the Act. Besides, the Government also issue periodical regulations about matters arising out of the working of the Act and the State Board works in consultation with the Government in carrying out its regular functions.

The Bhoodan Movement has made very slow progress in the State. Perhaps, it may be due to the fact that in the better developed agricultural tracts of Madras, people are not ready to part with their land for Bhoodan. The extent of land collected for Bhoodan in the Ramanathapuram District upto 1963 is 20,63.17 acres and the area distributed among the landless agriculturists is 848.35 acres. So far no village has been offered for Gramdan.

#### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

The *Agricultural Labour Enquiry*<sup>1</sup> conducted by the Government of India during 1950-51 revealed that agricultural labour families formed about 53 per cent of the total number of rural families in the State. The Special Officer for Land Tenures had submitted in his report that the condition of farm servants and agricultural labourers required close consideration. Though they are the most numerous body of persons in agriculture, they are economically the weakest. The problems faced by the agricultural labour are intermittent employment, low wages, long hours of work and lack of housing and educational facilities. There is also lack of organisation among the agricultural labourers.

In the District a form of agrestic serfdom prevailed for a long time. Under this system, the land owner secured a team of permanent farm servants by giving loans to them. Usually, the beginning of a term of *pannaiyalship* originated from the date on which an amount was borrowed from the land owner for a non-productive purpose like marriage. So long as the loan was not repaid, the

<sup>1</sup> See the Report on Intensive Survey of Agricultural Labour, Volume IV—South India 1955.

labourer continued to be under the permanent employment of the master and he could not go to work on any other farm. If the loan was not discharged during the life time of the *pannaiyal*, as was often the case, his son or other person who accepted the responsibility for the loan succeeded to the *pannaiyalship*. The *pannaiyal* got free house-site and some garden land for his own use. Often the wages fixed and the condition of labour offered depended on the good-will of the landlord.

There is another type of farm servant known as *padiyal*. Unlike the *pannaiyal*, the *padiyal* though a permanent farm servant, is not attached to the farm. He cannot be transferred along with the farm to somebody else when the farm is sold. He is a free labourer who can move from one farm to another. He works for the whole agricultural season on the farm on his choice and seeks employment outside the farm during the off-season. During the cultivating season he is employed along with *pannaiyals* on farm work, but he is not entitled to the facilities of free house-site and garden land.

In recent years though the various forms of serfdom of the agricultural workers have disappeared for the better, their economic insecurity persists. Between 1939 and 1945 wages have doubled themselves, but the standard of living of the agricultural workers has not substantially improved.

**The Survey of Agricultural Labour:—**During 1950-51 the Government of India conducted an All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry. For the purpose of the enquiry, the Madras State was divided into seven zones <sup>1</sup>. The Ramanathapuram District was included in zone II of the enquiry along with the districts of Thanjavur and Tirunelveli and the irrigated taluks of South Arcot, North Arcot, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai.

(i) *Size and Structure:—*It was revealed by the enquiry that 98.6 per cent of the labour families surveyed in the State were casual workers' families and only 1.4 per cent of the labour families were families of attached workers. 48.9 per cent of the total wage earners were men and 47.5 percent were women. The average size and earning strength of an agricultural labour family in the Zone in which the District was included were as follows:—

| <i>Zones.</i> | <i>Average size of family.</i> | <i>Average earning strength.</i> | <i>Average number of wage earners.</i> | <i>Men.</i> | <i>Women.</i> | <i>Children..</i> |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| II ..         | 4.0                            | 1.1                              | 2.0                                    | 0.9         | 1.0           | 0.1               |

<sup>1</sup>. See Volume IV of the Report relating to South India.

(ii) *Employment and Unemployment*:—Casual workers, families formed the bulk of the agricultural labour families in the State. On the average they had 176 days of employment for men, 139 days of employment for women and 148 days of employment for children. In the case of attached workers' families, men were employed for 305 days, women for 144 days and children for 261 days. The child workers formed a very small proportion of the total number of wage earners and they were employed only in a few villages.

It was also found that during seasons of busy agricultural work such as preparatory tillage, weeding and harvesting, almost all available agricultural labour was employed. The percentage employed ranged from about 60 to 90 percent. In other agricultural operations such as sowing and threshing only about 20 percent of the labour population was employed. It is evident from these figures that in some seasons almost the total available labour is employed in gainful pursuits and in other seasons it is not so. It may be concluded from these facts that in rural areas the agricultural labour is not suffering from unemployment as such for a continuous period but from partial employment in particular seasons.

The problem of unemployment in rural areas is a question of definition. Out of the 116 days for which the labourer was found to be unemployed in zone II, if allowance was made for weekly holidays and periods of illness, the days of unemployment will turn out to be meagre. Besides, some farm employment surveys have revealed that in the rural areas agricultural labourers were sometimes able to live without any ostensible means of livelihood. This percentage was high among women and children.

Employment in agriculture is to a large extent influenced by seasonal vagaries in which the available complement of manpower is employed to the full in particular seasons and in other seasons it does not find full employment. The percentage of men who are chronically unemployed is very low.

(iii) *Wages and Mode of Payment*:—In the zone in which the District was included payment of wages in cash was the predominant mode of wage payment. The percentage distribution of man-days according to the modes of payment in *Zone II* was as follows :

| <i>Cash</i> | <i>Kind</i> | <i>Cash and Kind.</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 69.1        | 21.2        | 9.7                   |

In zone II, the general daily wage rate for adult male workers in agricultural work was Re. 0.97 while that for women was Re. 0.55. In non-agricultural employment men were paid Re. 0.90 and women Re. 0.40. The corresponding State averages were Re. 0.97 for male worker and Re. 0.59 for women workers in agricultural employment and Re. 1.10 for male workers and Rs. 0.53, for women workers in non-agricultural employment.

The average annual income of an agricultural labour family in Zone II was estimated at Rs.360. The corresponding State average was Rs. 365.

**Consumption Expenditure** :—A brief account of the pattern of consumption expenditure of agricultural labour families in the Zone is given in the section on *Family Budgets* in *Chapter IX-Economic Trends*.

**Indebtedness** :—The survey also revealed that agricultural labourers' families were affected by varying degrees of indebtedness in the State :

| Category of families.         | Percentage of families. | Percentage of indebted families to the total in Cohnann (2). | Debt per indebted family. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| (1)                           | (2)                     | (3)  | (4)                       |
|                               |                         |  | RS.                       |
| Casual workers' families :—   |                         |  |                           |
| (i) With land ..              | 47.6                    | 41.0   | 118                       |
| (ii) Without land             | 51.0                    | 56.2   | 62                        |
| All ..                        | 98.6                    | 48.9   | 85                        |
| Attached workers' families :— |                         |  |                           |
| (i) With land ..              | 0.4                     | 36.4   | 18                        |
| (ii) Without land             | 1.0                     | 57.7   | 51                        |
| All ..                        | 1.4                     | 51.4   | 44                        |

From the facts provided by the survey, it has to be concluded that the agriculturists are steeped in debt as a result of continuous years of deficits in the family budgets.

The average annual income and expenditure of the agricultural labourers' families in the State generally revealed surplus in the case of those families with land and deficits in the case of those families without land. The position was as follows :—

| Category of families.          | Average Annual Income. | Average Annual Expenditure (excluding ceremonies). | Surplus or ( + ) deficit (—). |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| (1)                            | (2)                    | (3)  | (4)                           |
|                                | RS.                    | RS.  | RS.                           |
| I. Casual workers' families :— |                        |  |                               |
| (i) With land ..               | 425                    | 421  | +7                            |
| (ii) Without land              | 298                    | 329  | —30                           |

| <i>Category of families.</i>             | <i>Average Annual Income.</i> | <i>Average Annual Expenditure (Excluding ceremonies).</i> | <i>Surplus or (+) deficit (—)</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (1)                                      | (2)                           | (3)   | (4)                               |
| <b>II. Attached workers' families :—</b> |                               |   |                                   |
| (i) With land ..                         | 533                           | 481   | +42                               |
| (ii) Without land                        | 238                           | 252   | —14.4                             |

The deficits in the case of landless workers, no doubt warranted borrowing for consumption purposes. Those consumption loans were mainly received from their employers and in some cases from shop keepers and from fellow-workers.

In the case of workers without land, deficit family budgets were a recurrent feature. They had to borrow necessarily for consumption purposes. But the workers with land also borrowed even though they had surplus budgets. This will necessarily lead one to question the statistics collected. The explanation that they were borrowing for consumption purpose might not be reliable. The only explanation that can be offered is that the workers with land have a strong tendency to borrow from friends and relatives and others in order to effect permanent improvements on lands. The advances received from friends and others are in fact long-term loans with no time limit to repay, whereas the loans are received from employers co-operative societies and money-lenders have to be repaid within the stipulated period.

**Legislation For Minimum Wages:**—The Minimum Wages Act passed by the Government of India in 1948 enumerated a number of employments for which minimum wages have to be fixed by 1961. Employment in all activities connected with agriculture were brought under the purview of the Act for minimum wage fixation. It prescribed a 3 year time-limit for fixing the minimum wages for all jobs specified in the Act. As many States were not able to adhere to the time-limit, a bill was introduced in 1956 to amend the Act so as to remove the time-limit prescribed in it.

The State Government have entrusted the enforcement of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act to the Commissioner of Labour. A Minimum Wages Advisory Board was appointed under section 7 of the Act. It consisted of seven representatives each of employers and employees and an equal number of independent members. The Commissioner of Labour, one of the

independent members and the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour are appointed as the Chairman and the Secretary of the Advisory Board respectively.

On the passing of the Minimum wages Act of 1948, the Madras Government instituted an inquiry about the wages prevailing in the low-wage pockets of the State. The inquiry was confined to 84 villages of the State chosen by stratified random sampling from among the villages found to have low wages according to the Quinquennial Wages Census of 1940.

The Enquiry revealed the prevalence of specially low wages for ploughing, transplanting and weeding in the major portion of 84 villages surveyed. Wages for ploughing were below Rs. 1.50 in a number of villages and wages for transplanting and weeding were also below three-fourths of the wages for ploughing in a number of villages surveyed.

The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee recommended the constitution of Wage Boards at State levels with branches at district headquarters for fixing agricultural wages for different occupations. The Special Officer for Reform of Land Tenures recommended that legislation should be undertaken for fixing minimum wages for agricultural workers as they were not able to look after their interest in their dealings with landowners. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee of 1950 recommended that the minimum wages fixed should not break the agricultural economy, but should be "fair wages" which both the employer and the worker would accept. The Committee recommended different rates of wages for agricultural workers according to their status of employment such as casual labour, seasonal labour, annual labour and permanent farm labour.

The minimum rates of wages for employment in agriculture in the State were fixed in 1959 under the Minimum Wages Act of 1958 by an order of the Government. The Government fixed the minimum rates of wages specified in column 2 of the Schedule below as payable to each class of employees specified in the corresponding entries in column (1) thereof, employed in agriculture in the State of Madras, except in the areas in which the Tanjore Pannaiyal Protection Act, 1952 and the Tiruchirappalli Kaiaeruvaram and Mattuvaram Act, 1958 were in force.

The order was notified to come into force on the 10th December 1959.



## THE SCHEDULE 1.

## Employment in Agriculture.

| <i>Class of Employees.</i>  | <i>Minimum Rates of Wages Per Day.</i> |
|---|--|
| (1)   | (2)<br>Rs. P.                          |
| 1. Employees engaged in ploughing (without bullocks and ploughs). | 1 25                                   |
| 2. Employees engaged in sowing and transplanting.                 |  |
| Adults :—   |  |
| Grade I .. .. .   | 1 5                                    |
| Grade II .. .. .  | 1 00                                   |
| Non-adults .. .. .  | 0 87                                   |
| 3. Other agricultural employees.                                  |  |
| Adults :—   |  |
| Grade I .. .. .   | 1 00                                   |
| Grade II .. .. .  | 0 87                                   |
| Non-adults .. .. .  | 0 75                                   |

(NOTE.—Classification of employees into Grades I and II is based on physical capacity and outturn of work.)

*Administration : Of other Sources of Revenue.*

The Constitution of India provides for the division of taxes between the Centre and the States. Taxes within Union jurisdiction are enumerated in List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. They are :—

Taxes on income other than agricultural income .

Corporation Tax.

Customs Duties.

Excise except on alcoholic liquors and narcotics.

Estate and Succession Duties other than on agricultural land.

Taxes on the capital value of assets (exclusive of agricultural land) of individuals and companies.

Rates of Stamp Duties on transactions in stock exchange and future markets.

Taxes on sale or purchase of newspapers and on advertisements therein.

Taxes on railway freights and fares.

Terminal Taxes on goods and passengers carried by railway, sea or air and

Taxes not specifically enumerated in the State or Concurrent Lists.

1. The figures in the schedule are revised figures. }

**List II of the Seventh Schedule enumerates the taxes under the jurisdiction of the State. They are :—**

**Land Revenue**

Taxes on the sale and purchase of goods except newspapers.

Taxes on agricultural income.

Taxes on lands and buildings.

Succession and Estate Duties in respect of agricultural land.

Excise on alcoholic liquors and narcotics.

Taxes on the entry of goods into a local area.

Taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament.

Taxes on the consumption or sale of electricity.

Taxes on vehicles, animals and boats.

Stamp Duties except those specified in the Union List.

Taxes on goods and passengers carried by road of inland water ways.

Taxes on luxuries including entertainments, betting and gambling.

Tolls.

Taxes on professions, trade and callings and employment.

Capitation Taxes and

Taxes on advertisements other than advertisements in newspapers.

The Constitution also contains provisions for the distribution of certain revenue between the Union and the States. In the first place, there are duties which are levied by the Union but are collected and appropriated by the States, e.g., Stamp Duties, duties on excise on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol. In the second ground, there are the taxes which are to be levied and collected by the Union but which are assigned to the States within which they are leviable e.g., Succession and Estate Duties in respect of property other than agricultural land, Terminal Taxes on goods and passengers carried by railway, sea or air, taxes on railway fares and freights, taxes other than Stamp Duties on transaction in stock exchanges and future markets ; taxes on the sale and purchase of newspapers and advertisements therein. In the third group the important tax is the Income tax (other than Agricultural Income tax) which are levied and collected by the Union but are distributed between the Union and the States in a prescribed manner. The receipts from these taxes are distributed among the States on the basis of population and the collection of the tax from the region.

The tax collected in the District are those levied by the State and the Central Governments. Apart from the land revenue the important taxes collected in the District are dealt within the following pages.

**Agricultural Income tax:—**In 1958, the Madras Plantations Agricultural Income tax Act, 1955, was extended to non-plantation crops also with effect from the assessment year 1958-59 by the

**Amendment Act, of 1958. The rates of Agricultural Income-tax have also been revised as follows :—**

- 1 On the first Rs. 3,600 of total agricultural income.—Nil.
- 2 On the next Rs. 1,400 of total agricultural income.—5 P. in the rupee.
- 3 On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income.—15 P. in the rupee
- 4 On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income.—20 P. in the rupee.
- 5 On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income.—25 P. in the rupee.
- 6 On the next Rs. 5,000 of total agricultural income.—30 P. in the rupee.
- 7 On the balance of total agricultural income.—45 P. in the rupee.

Provided that in the case of every company, Agricultural Income tax shall be charged at the maximum rate on the whole of the total agricultural income.

No Agricultural Income-tax is payable on an agricultural income not exceeding Rs. 3,600 and on lands not exceeding 12·50 standard acres in extent.

The agriculturists are also given the option to pay the Agricultural Income-tax according to the area of their land. They are as follows :

**PLANTATION.**

[Section 34 of the (Amendment) Act, 1958.]

| <i>Extent.</i>                     |    |    |    |    | <i>Rate for<br/>Standard<br/>Acres.</i> |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
|                                    |    |    |    |    | <i>Rs. P.</i>                           |
| 1 On the first 12½ standard acres  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil.                                    |
| 2 On the next 7½ standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 50                                    |
| 3 On the next 10 standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 50                                    |
| 4 On the next 10 standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 00                                   |
| 5 On the next 10 standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 00                                   |
| 6 On the next 10 standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 50                                   |
| 7 On the next 10 standard acres    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 00                                   |
| 8 On the balance of standard acres | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25 00                                   |

Provided that in the case of every company, the lump sum so payable shall be charged at the maximum rate on the whole of the total extent of the land held by those persons.

The amount of the Agricultural Income-Tax collected from 1958-59 to 1963-64 in the Ramanathapuram District is given below:—

| Year.           | Amount.<br>Collected. |    |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----|
|                 | RS.                   | P. |
| 1958-59 .. .. . | 1,2339                | 29 |
| 1959-60 .. .. . | 1,55,832              | 58 |
| 1960-61 .. .. . | 1,86,495              | 37 |
| 1961-62 .. .. . | 99,143                | 65 |
| 1962-63 .. .. . | 69,629                | 85 |
| 1963-64 .. .. . | 2,28,997              | 43 |

**Land Revenue:**—The land revenue including cesses constitute the biggest item of state revenue for this District, next to the Commercial Taxes. This income which stood at rupees 28 lakhs in 1925-26 has been steadily growing on account of the increase in cesses and the abolition of estates and conversion to ryotwari tenure. The figures for 1959-60 to 1963-64 are given below:—

| Year       | Fasli. | Amount<br>collected. |
|------------|--------|----------------------|
| (1)        | (2)    | (3)                  |
| 1959-60 .. | 1369   | 63,10,298            |
| 1960-61 .. | 1370   | 74,80,952            |
| 1961-62 .. | 1371   | 54,00,238            |
| 1962-63 .. | 1372   | 86,69,720            |
| 1963-64 .. | 1373   | 92,36,129            |

**Excise Revenue:**—The State excise consists of the revenue collected by the Government in connection with the control of the manufacture, sale, consumption and other operations connected with alcoholic liquors and hemp drugs and of the sale and consumption of raw opium and manufactured drugs. It does not include the Customs duties levied by the Central Government on imported liquors. In 1945-46, the then Madras Government derived an income of Rs. 30,53,471-12-4 from excises, which was 1.9 per cent of the total revenue of the province. When prohibition was first introduced in October 1937, this revenue turned to be an ever shrinking source of income.

But the Central Government are levying excise duty on tobacco and its products, matches, vegetable oils, soaps, art silk and cotton cloth on power looms cotton yarn, copper coffee, films caustic soda and non-edible oils.

**Sales-Tax:**—The Madras General Sales Tax Act was passed in 1939. The Madras General Sales Tax Act of 1939 authorises the levy of a general tax on the sale of goods other than the electrical energy,

motor spirit manufactured tobacco and any goods on which duty is or may be levied under Madras Abkari Act 188 of the Opium Act of 1878. The tax is calculated on the turn over of business. According to the Act of 1939, the tax is not levied on business with a turn over of less than Rs. 10,000 and of Rs. 5 per month is levied on business with a turn over not exceeding Rs. 20,000 and when the turn over exceeds Rs. 20,000, it is levied at the rate of one half of one percent of such turn over hides and skins merchant paid a single point Sales-tax. Bullion and specie were exempted from the payment of Sales-tax.

The Madras General Sales Tax Act was the first legislation in India levying a tax on sales. The Act came into force on 1st October 1939. There were no precedents or previous experience to help the Commercial Tax Department whose duty was to carry out the provision of the Act. The assessment levy of a tax on turn over involved an entirely a new form of revenue collection for which a staff had to be improvised from services which had hitherto dealt with revenues of an entirely different kind.

The administration of the Act did not present any serious difficulties. Though at first dealers were averse to the provision of the Act there has been no serious opposition from them. They were mostly passing on the tax to the consumer. The working of the Act has shown that there are many possible methods of evasion. The suppression of each transaction is one of the method of evasion, and it is difficult to detect it.

The number of assesseees to the tax and the tax demand grow steadily. On 31st March, 1959 the number of persons assessed to the tax in the District was 4,343 and the tax demand was Rs. 55,16,710-83. This steady growth was only interrupted during the period 1952-53. In 1952 there was a fall in the collection of tax due to stoppage of business by a number of dealers in handloom cloth and yarn due to short supply of yarn and slump in handloom cloth business. During 1953-and 54, 55 there was fall in the number of assesseees and the total tax collected due to general depression in trade and the poor purchasing power of the public. Particularly in the year 1955, the fall in the tax collected was due to the fall in prices of commercial crops and the exemption granted to the dealers of the handloom cloth from the payment of the Sales-tax.

When the tax was first levied the rate of assessment was  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one per cent. In the year 1949, the assesseees paid 3 pies per rupee. There was also a slab rate system. Dealers whose annual turn over was between Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 paid Rs. 96 per annum. And the dealers with an annual turn over of Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 paid Rs. 144 per annum. In 1950, hotels with a turn over of Rs. 25,000 and more paid 4½ pies on food and drinks sold. With effect from 23rd August 1954 hosiery goods made of yarn other than cotton and medium cotton mill cloth were liable to additional tax of 1 anna and

**3 pies in the rupee.** Exemptions were also granted to perishable items, precious stones, other than diamonds and rubies and handloom cloth. In 1958 the tax was raised from 2 per cent.

In June 1957 the Government appointed Dr. S. Loganathan to enquire into and report the working of the Madras General Sales Tax Act and to suggest changes as regards structure of tax and administration with a view to simplify them. The Government have introduced a comprehensive bill to give effect to their decisions on his recommendations and to amend and consolidate the existing Act. The bill seeks to levy a single point tax at appropriate rates on more than 70 items, to abolish the system of licensing, to retain the scheme of registration of dealers, to reduce the hardship of petty dealers by providing for compounding of the tax on slabs up to Rs. 25,000 and to 3 separate wings, viz., Assessment, Appellate and Intelligence.

The following table gives the details about the total number of assessees, the tax demanded, the tax collected and arrears from 1953 to 1964:

| Year as on.  | Total number of dealers assessed. | Demand.      | Collection.  | Balance.    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| (1)          | (2)                               | (3)          | (4)          | (5)         |
|              |                                   | RS.          | RS.          | RS.         |
| 31—3—1953 .. | 4789                              | 51,56,105-77 | 45,37,985-34 | 6,18,120-42 |
| 31—3—1954 .. | 4515                              | 48,25,171-53 | 39,98,791-11 | 8,26,380-42 |
| 31—3—1955 .. | 3783                              | 45,08,954-40 | 37,21,688-28 | 7,87,266-11 |
| 31—3—1956 .. | 3995                              | 44,38,401-51 | 38,26,245-83 | 6,12,155-68 |
| 31—3—1957 .. | 4424                              | 25,69,896-20 | 18,27,567-25 | 7,42,301-94 |
| 31—3—1958 .. | 4293                              | 57,52,227-34 | 49,65,000-35 | 7,97,406-93 |
| 31—3—1959 .. | 4343                              | 55,16,710-83 | 49,36,788-36 | 5,79,922-47 |
| 1—3—1960 ..  | 4355                              | 57,22,822-53 | 51,75,590-57 | 5,47,231-96 |
| 1—3—1961 ..  | 4729                              | 64,19,687-16 | 60,05,412-27 | 4,14,274-89 |
| 31—3—1962 .. | 5013                              | 68,44,920-35 | 64,14,819-04 | 4,20,101-31 |
| 31—3—1963 .. | 5560                              | 77,74,703-86 | 73,53,058-66 | 4,21,645-20 |
| 31—3—1964 .. | 6062                              | 79,94,167-44 | 73,73,322-81 | 6,20,844-63 |

**Madras General Sales Tax, 1959<sup>1</sup>:**—This act has been enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the levy of General Sales-tax. According to this Act, the tax is not levied on business with a turn over of less than Rs. 10,000.

1. Fort St. George Gazette, March 18, 1959, The Madras General Sales Tax Act, Page. 123.

The turn over limit and the rate of tax levied are given below :—

| <i>Turnover limit.</i> | <i>Tax amount.</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| (1)                    | (2)                |
| Rs. 10,000 to 15,000.  | Rs. 120 per annum. |
| Rs. 15,000 to 20,000.  | Rs. 180 per annum. |
| Rs. 20,000 to 25,000.  | Rs. 240 per annum. |
| Rs. 25,000 to 30,000.  | Rs. 300 per annum. |
| Rs. 30,000 to 35,000.  | Rs. 360 per annum. |
| Rs. 35,000 to 40,000.  | Rs. 40 per annum.  |
| Rs. 40,000 to 45,000.  | Rs. 480 per annum. |
| Rs. 45,000 to 50,000.  | Rs. 540 per annum. |

The rate of tax on compounded slab system roughly works out to one per cent. This scheme can be availed of by any dealer in lieu of his liability to pay tax under multi-point.

The following table shows the number of dealers in the Ramana-  
thapuram District assessed under the Madras General Sales-tax  
Act, 1959, for the year ended 31st March 1967<sup>1</sup>.

| <i>Number of dealers.</i>                                     |          |   |   |   |          |
|---|----------|---|---|---|----------|
| <i>Paying tax at the compounded rates.</i>                    |          |   |   |   |          |
| <i>With total turnover between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000.</i> |          | <i>With total turnover between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000.</i> |   | <i>With total turnover between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000.</i> |          |
| 1965-66.  | 1966-67. | 1965-66.  | 1966-67.                                | 1965-66.  | 1966-67. |
| (1)   | (2)      | (3)   | (4)                                     | (5)   | (6)      |
| 1,398   | 1,480    | 453   | 480                                     | 234   | 300      |
| <i>Number of dealers—cont.</i>                                |          |   |   |   |          |
| <i>Paying tax at the compounded rates—cont.</i>               |          |   | <i>Paying tax on provisional basis.</i> |   |          |
| <i>With total turnover between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000.</i> |          | <i>With total turnover below Rs. 5 lakhs.</i>                 |   | <i>With total turnover above Rs. 5 lakhs.</i>                 |          |
| 1965-66.  | 1966-67. | 1965-66.  | 1966-67.                                | 1965-66.  | 1966-67. |
| (7)   | (8)      | (9)   | (10)                                    | (11)  | (12)     |
| 474   | 894      | 3,163   | 2,349                                   | 77  | 114      |
| <i>Number of dealers—cont.</i>                                |          |   |   |   |          |
| <i>Paying tax on actual monthly turnover.</i>                 |          |   |   |   |          |
| <i>With total turnover over below Rs. 5 lakhs.</i>            |          | <i>With total turnover above Rs. 5 lakhs.</i>                 |   | <i>Total.</i>   |          |
| 1965-66.  | 1966-67. | 1965-66.  | 1966-67.                                | 1965-66.  | 1966-67. |
| (13)  | (14)     | (15)  | (16)                                    | (17)  | (18)     |
| 931   | 1,070    | 175   | 238                                     | 6,903   | 6,934    |

The Revenue from the Madras Sales Tax Act for the whole State in recent years is Rs.12.24 crores during 1959-60 and Rs. 35.96 crores during 1966-67.

### REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE CENTRE AND SHARED WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

*Income-tax*:—The most important item of revenue in this group is the Income-tax. This is levied and collected by the Centre and 60 per cent of it is distributed among the States according to a ratio fixed.

The general rule for the distribution of the divisible pool of the Income-tax among the various States is 90 per cent on the basis of population and 90 per cent on the basis of collection of the tax.

The industries and trade which contribute a major portion of the revenue to Virudhunagar Circle are as follows :—

(i) Manufacture and sale of matches, crackers, wire nails and wood-screws,

(ii) Litho Presses,

(iii) Manufacture and sale of gingili, ground-nut, cocoanut oils and dhalls,

(iv) Trades in pulses, grams, coffee, chicory, arecanuts, etc.,

(v) Transport concerns.

The amount of Income-tax collected in the State from two circles of the Ramanathapuram District is given in the table below:

| <i>Year.</i> | <i>Karaikkudi Circle.</i> | <i>Virudhunagar Circle.</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1)          | (2)                       | (3)                         |
|              | RS.                       | RS.                         |
| 1959—60      | 14,14,646                 | 43,54,313                   |
| 1960—61      | 18,05,861                 | 58,83,785                   |
| 1961—62      | 9,97,628                  | 77,46,189                   |
| 1962—63      | 15,30,104                 | 89,64,217                   |
| 1963—64      | 19,27,122                 | 1,06,98,914                 |
| 1964—65      | 19,92,268                 | 71,31,505                   |
| 1965—66      | 13,64,754                 | 59,37,709                   |

*Tobacco Excise*:—The Madras Tobacco (Taxation or Sales and Licensings) Act 1939 was repealed by the Union Government Tobacco Excise Duty, 1943. This Act has provided for compensation to the State Government for the loss of revenue on this head.

In designing the excise system it has been the chief aim of the Union Government as far as possible to avoid difficulties to the tobacco trade and in particular to incur no risk of discouraging the cultivation of Tobacco. On the contrary the Government desire to improve the quality of country tobacco and generally to promote the welfare of the industry and substantial sum is annually granted from the proceeds of the excise for the purpose of financing the State Government's loss incurred under this head. The main features of the Tobacco Excise System of this District are (1) registration of all growers and the licensing of curers, wholesale dealers, brokers,



commission agents, warehouse keepers and manufacturers; (2) prohibition of transactions in tobacco except by registered growers and licensed persons, (3) prohibition of movement of unmanufactured tobacco except under authorised documents and (4) penal action in respect of breaches of the Act and the Central Excise Rules.

The Tobacco Excise Administration of the Ramanathapuram District is controlled by two Divisional Officers (Assistant Collectors) stationed at Madurai and Sivakasi. Madurai Division comprises of Ramanathapuram, Tiruppattur, Kamudi, Sivaganga and Paramagudi taluks. The Sivakasi Division comprises of Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Virudhunagar taluks. The extent of tobacco cultivation in the jurisdictional charge of Sivakasi Division is very negligible. In the Madurai Division, Kamudi, Tiruvadanai and Paramagudi are important places for tobacco cultivation. The annual yield from tobacco tax is given in the following table :

| Division.            | Year.          | Gross Revenue<br>for the entire<br>State. | Gross Revenue<br>for the Ramanatha-<br>puram District. |
|----------------------|----------------|---|--|
| (1)                  | (2)            | (3)                                       | (4)  |
|                      |                | RS.                                       | RS.  |
| Madurai .. .. .      | 1960-61        | 3,70,59,000-00                            | 7,70,739-46  |
|                      | 1961-62        | 3,82,91,000-00                            | 8,39,676-83  |
|                      | 1962-63        | 4,14,44,000-00                            | 8,88,250-68  |
| Sivakasi .. .. .     | 1960-61        | ....                                      | 2,59,913-00  |
|                      | 1961-62        | ....                                      | 2,64,853-66  |
|                      | 1962-63        | ....                                      | 2,65,238-65  |
| <b>Total .. .. .</b> | <b>.. .. .</b> | <b>11,67,94,000-00</b>                    | <b>32,88,672-28</b>                                    |

The total gross revenue shown above is realised both on the country tobacco grown as well as the biri tobacco imported by the tobacco licensees from other States of Gujarat, Hyderabad and Mysore. The revenue yield pertaining to the Ramanathapuram District works out to 2.8 per cent (Average of the Total State Revenue. The chief variety of country tobacco grown in the Ramanathapuram District is *Kalameni* variety and it depends on irrigation facilities from the wells. This crop is not of a commercial variety as many of the growers raise this crop for their personal consumption.

#### **Fees.**

**Registration Fees:**—Under the Indian Registration Act 1908, all documents pertaining to immovable properties should be registered according to the nature of the document. The chief items of receipts collected by the Registration Department are in respect of registration of documents, making or granting of copies, searching the

registers and authentication of powers of attorney. There are a few classes of documents that have been exempted from the payment of fees in whole or in part e.g. (a) mortgage deeds executed by Government servants in respect of advances for house building, (b) documents relating to co-operative societies and land mortgage banks and (c) encumbrance certificates issued in connection with loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

**Receipts of Registration Department for the State and the District :**

| <i>Year.</i> |    |    |    |    | <i>Receipts for the whole State.</i> | <i>Receipts for the District.*</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1)          |    |    |    |    | (2)                                  | (3)                                |
|              |    |    |    |    | Rs.                                  | Rs.                                |
| 1958-59      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 86,20,832                            | 4,60,758                           |
| 1959-60      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,04,38,537                          | 5,71,020                           |
| 1960-61      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,02,34,762                          | 6,04,736                           |
| 1961-62      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,09,38,855                          | 6,40,372                           |
| 1962-63      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,20,20,003                          | 6,70,831                           |
| 1963-64      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,47,36,214                          | 7,20,505                           |

**Stamp (Judicials):**—The income from court-fees is a steadily expanding source of revenue; except for few years from 1938-39 to 1944-45 when there was a sharp fall in the revenues due to fall in litigation, as a result of the introduction of debt relief measures the amount received from court fees was increasing.

The receipts from Court fees for the State as a whole and for the district are given below :

| <i>Year.</i> |    |    |    |    | <i>Court fee receipts for the State</i> | <i>Court fee receipts for the District.</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| (1)          |    |    |    |    | (2)                                     | (3)   |
|              |    |    |    |    | Rs.                                     | Rs.   |
| 1959-60      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,20,93,440-00                          | 6,11,564-00                                 |
| 1960-61      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,28,78,385-00                          | 6,01,464-56                                 |
| 1961-62      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,38,67,431-00                          | 5,92,566-40                                 |
| 1962-63      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,39,83,437-52                          | 5,97,283-71                                 |
| 1963-64      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,48,19,610-00                          | 6,65,483-35                                 |

\* These figures represent the total receipts of the Sub-Registry Office of the Pudukkottai Registration District attached to the Ramanathapuram Revenue District and the Sub-Registry Offices of the Ramanathapuram Registration District attached to the Ramanathapuram Revenue District.

## REVENUES FROM COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES.

*Revenue from Forests:*—The income from forests is derived from two sources. (i) Reserve Forests, Reserve Lands and Forests under the control of the Forest Department, (ii) Forest Revenue is derived by sale of forest produce such as fuel, timber bamboos miner forest produce, usufructs in plantations, by kist for land leases for cultivation of plantation products, through the compounding fees in forest offences, sale of minerals through mining leases, sale proceeds of seizures in offences and by the sale of grazing permits for pasture in the areas under the control of the Forest Department.

The following table gives the amount of revenue from forests in the District during the year 1957-58 to 1965-66.

| Year.   | Revenue Amount. |    |          |
|---------|-----------------|----|----------|
| (1)     | (2)             |    |          |
|         | RS.             |    |          |
| 1957-58 | --              | -- | 1,97,426 |
| 1958-59 | --              | -- | 1,68,712 |
| 1959-60 | --              | -- | 2,41,763 |
| 1960-61 | --              | -- | 2,47,292 |
| 1961-62 | --              | -- | 3,74,489 |
| 1962-63 | --              | -- | 3,99,946 |
| 1963-64 | --              | -- | 4,17,194 |
| 1964-65 | --              | -- | 2,72,000 |
| 1965-66 | --              | -- | 4,20,281 |

The revenue from irrigation works is on the increase. In 1947-48, it was only Rs. 2,33,498. The area irrigated under the first crop was 35,693 acres and that of the second crop was 20,324 acres in the Ramanathapuram District. As a result of the execution of the Vaigai Reservoir Project an additional area of 5,623 acres under first crop and 885 acres under second crop have been brought under irrigation. The net additional revenue derived there from works out to Rs. 34,100. Consequent on the taking over of estates in the Ramanathapuram District under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion in to Ryotwari) Act, 1948 (Madras Act XXVI of 1948) the total area irrigated under minor works has also risen to 4,23,333 acres under the first crop and 42,819 acres under the second crop. The net revenue derived under this item is Rs. 9,21,658.

*Electricity Scheme:*—The Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme in the District has been undertaken by the Government.

The Kanyakumari, the Tirunelveli, the Ramanathapuram and the Madurai District areas were functioning as one Unit upto 1 April 1961. The receipts from the electricity schemes in the State in 1962-63 were Rs. 2,019.17 lakhs. The Tirunelveli Electricity System (the Tirunelveli and the Kanyakumari districts) was formed in April 1961 and the Ramanathapuram Electricity System (the Ramanathapuram District only) in April 1966.

**Agro-Industries:**—Receipts from industries are at present derived mainly from the sources: (1) Cinchona Plantations in the Nilgiris, (2) Fisheries Department and (3) State run enterprises such as small scale industries and units for hiring equipment for agricultures, cane crushing equipment, tractors, etc.

#### OTHER TAXES.

**Stamps (Non-Judicial):**—The revenue from this item is derived by the sale of non-judicial stamp papers and stamps to meet the prescribed payment of duty on instruments such as leases, mortgages bills of exchange and hundies. Some specified instruments, e.g., those relating to transfer of debentures and land mortgage banks are exempted from the operation of this Act. It is an expanding source of income. As the prices of real estates are rising during the period of inflation the stamp duties which are levied as a percentage of the value of the property bought and sold, are also rising. The receipts from stamp duties for the whole State and the District are given below :

| Year.<br>(1)  | Receipts for the<br>whole State. |    | Receipts for the<br>District. |    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|
|               | (2)                              |    | (3)                           |    |
|               | RS.                              | P. | RS.                           | P. |
| 1959-60 .. .. | 2,73,51,544                      | 00 | 25,06,862                     | 11 |
| 1960-61 .. .. | 3,70,49,303                      | 00 | 28,12,064                     | 27 |
| 1961-62 .. .. | 4,69,15,364                      | 00 | 30,99,522                     | 66 |
| 1962-63 .. .. | 5,38,93,570                      | 00 | 32,73,004                     | 81 |
| 1963-64 .. .. | 4,85,70,389                      | 00 | 31,74,094                     | 85 |

**Motor Vehicles Tax:**—The Madras Vehicles Taxation Act of 1931 substituted a provincial tax on motor vehicles for all tolls, levied by the Government and by local bodies, and the tax on motor vehicles levied by local bodies before the commencement of this Act. The Madras Traffic Control Act was enacted in 1938 and fees were levied in addition to the permit fee under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914. It also abolished the powers granted to Madras Local Boards and District Municipalities to levy fees on Motor Vehicles. From the proceeds of the tax collected, the district and municipal councils are paid a sum equivalent to the average annual income derived by such board or council during three years ending 31st day of March immediately preceeding the commencement of this Madras Traffic Control Act, 1938 from fees on licences granted to Motor Vehicles under Section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act of Section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 as the case may be.

*Income from the Motor Vehicles Tax.*

| Year.<br>(1)  | Receipts for the<br>whole State.<br>(2) |    | Grant to Local<br>Bodies in the<br>District.<br>(3) |    |
|---------------|---|----|---|----|
|               | RS.                                     | P. | RS.   | P. |
|               |   |    |   |    |
| 1958-59 .. .. | 4,99,58,077                             | 00 | 20,83,450   | 62 |
| 1959-60 .. .. | 5,49,50,876                             | 00 | 22,78,073   | 03 |
| 1960-61 .. .. | 6,05,31,604                             | 00 | 26,66,382   | 92 |
| 1961-62 .. .. | 6,79,75,876                             | 00 | 32,84,283   | 33 |
| 1962-63 .. .. | 10,22,37,685                            | 00 | 51,90,168   | 96 |

*Madras sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act 1939* :—The Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act of 1939 imposed a duty on petrol. The tax was amended from time to time and from April 1947 a duty of 4 annas per gallon of petrol sold by retail dealer was imposed. The tax is generally known as Selected Commodity Tax.

With effect from 1st April 1948 the administration of the Act was transferred to the Commercial Taxes Department and the Commercial Tax Officers were made responsible for the administration of the Act in each district.

The Act is for the levy of tax on the sale by volume of motor spirit. Prior to 1st April 1958, the tax was levied on all retail sales of motor spirit in the State. From 1st April 1958 the tax is levied on first sale of motor spirit effected by every importer and every wholesale dealer.

The rates of tax on motor spirit fixed in respect of the three categories of motor spirit are given below :—

|   | Rate upto<br>30th Nov. 1965. | From 1st Dec. 1965<br>on wards. |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i Petrol .. .. .                                      | 9 paise per litre            | 10 paise per litre              |
| ii Diesel .. .. .                                     | 8 paise per litre            | 10 paise per litre              |
| iii Motor Spirit other than petrol<br>and diesel oil. | 2 paise per litre            | 2 paise per litre               |

*Receipts from Electricity Duty* :—The Madras Electricity Duty Act of 1939 imposed a duty of 6 pies, on every unit of electricity sold by licences provided their total sales are not less than 2,00,000 units per annum.

The annual receipts of the tax for the State are given below :—

| Year.<br>(1)  | Receipts for the whole<br>State.<br>(2) |    |
|---------------|---|----|
|               | RS.                                     | P. |
|               |   |    |
| 1961-60 .. .. | 18,12,664                               | 00 |
| 1961-62 .. .. | 20,04,991                               | 00 |
| 1962-63 .. .. | 23,18,747                               | 00 |

With the Government's progressive acquisition of electric supply companies this item of revenue is steadily diminishing.

**Entertainment tax:**—The Madras Entertainment Tax Act, 1939 provided for the levy of a tax on amusements and other entertainments. As this Act repealed the Local Authorities Entertainment Act of 1926 and provided for the payment of compensation to local authorities for the loss of this source of revenue the receipts from this source were steadily increasing with the growth of business activity and rising levels of income among the people.

The system of payment of a fixed compensation to local bodies was abolished with effect from 1st April 1945. From that date 90 per cent of the amount of tax collected in respect of entertainments conducted within the jurisdiction of a local body is being paid to it.

In 1947 concessional rates of tax were prescribed for cinematographic exhibitions, dramas, music performances etc. In 1949 a new provision was introduced for the levy of an additional tax (otherwise known as show tax) for each cinema show. This show tax is retained by the Government in full and no portion of it is paid to the local bodies.

With effect from 1st April 1958, the levy of tax under the Act has been restricted to cinema shows and horse races only, leaving all other entertainments outside the scope of the Act. The rates of tax with effect from 1st April 1958 are given below :—

Where each payment for admission to any entertainments (inclusive of the amount of tax)

|  | <i>Rate of Tax.</i>         |
|--|-----------------------------|
| (i) is not more than thirty paise ..   | One fourth of such payment. |
| (ii) is more than thirty paise but is not more than one rupee and fifty paise. | One-third of such payment.  |
| (iii) is more than one rupee and fifty paise.                                  | Two fifth of such payment.  |

Provided that in the case of cinematograph exhibitions the tax shall be calculated at the rates specified above on each payment for admission, after excluding from such payment the amount of the tax.

**Statement showing the annual collection of entertainment in the District.**

| <i>Year.</i>  | <i>Amount of tax collected in the District.</i> |           |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| (1)           | (2)   |           |
|               | <b>Rs.</b>                                      | <b>P.</b> |
| 1952-53 .. .. | 2,85,886  | 28        |
| 1953-54 .. .. | 2,42,606  | 75        |
| 1954-55 .. .. | 3,47,437  | 33        |
| 1955-56 .. .. | 3,99,955  | 55        |
| 1956-57 .. .. | 5,37,098  | 52        |
| 1957-58 .. .. | 5,96,988  | 19        |

|         |    |    |          |    |
|---------|----|----|----------|----|
| 1958-59 | -  | -  | 7,28,500 | 31 |
| 1959-60 | -  | -  | 7,09,564 | 34 |
| 1960-61 | -  | -  | 8,64,403 | 82 |
| 1961-62 | -  | -  | 9,25,824 | 28 |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | 9,21,591 | 38 |
| 1963-64 | .. | .. | 8,35,540 | 65 |

*Madras Local Authorities Finance Act, 1961*:—With a view to augmenting the resources of local bodies the Government introduced the Madras Local Authorities Finance Act, 1961 (Act No. 52 of 1961). Under this Act the local authorities (viz. Corporation of Madras, a Municipal Council, a Township Committee or a Panchayat Union Council) are empowered to levy in the form of a surcharge,

(a) a tax on each payment for admission to an entertainment at such a rate not exceeding the entertainments tax for that payment as the local authority may determine.

(b) a tax on each show of cinematograph exhibition at such rate not exceeding three times the rate of Show Tax levied under section 4-A of the Entertainment Tax Act as the local authority may determine.

The officers empowered to collect Entertainment tax and Show tax under the Madras Entertainment Tax Act are also empowered to collect surcharge on the Entertainment Tax and Show Tax under the Madras Local Authorities Finance Act. The rates of surcharge on Entertainment Tax and Show Tax and the date from which they are to be levied are decided by the local authority in a resolution and the resolution is published in the Fort. St. George Gazette and Local District Gazette. That resolution is given effect to by the Commercial Taxes Department.

There is an important group of taxes under Article 269 of the Constitution where Union Government levies and collects the taxes and the net proceeds of which are distributed among the States. They are :

1. Duties in respect of succession to property other than agricultural land.
2. State duty in respect of property other than agricultural land.
3. Terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by railway, sea, or air.
4. Taxes on railway fare and freights.
5. Taxes other than stamp duties on transactions in stock exchange and future markets.
6. Taxes on the sale or purchase of newspapers and on advertisements published therein.

## CHAPTER XII

### LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

The kings are traditionally held to be the fountain heads of justice. They are esteemed for their impartiality and for their not swerving from the path of justice. The *Tirukkura* which enunciated the Code of Conduct of the Tamils says : “not lance gives kings the victory but sceptre swayed with equity”<sup>1</sup>. The king was the highest court of appeal in the realm. He presided over the court of justice which was in those days known as *Dharmasana*.<sup>2</sup> Besides the king, the *Dharmasana* consisted of several learned men who assisted the king in carrying out his duties as the judicial authority. These learned men were known by the name *Dharmasanabhattas*. The judicial authority of the king involved many obligations towards his people in carrying out justice. It is clearly brought out in some of the *Kurals*. One of these says that the king would perish if he did not hear the grievances of his people, while another says that the king should scrutinise the details of a crime and decide the case with impartiality and with the advice of the learned men. During the Pandya and Chola periods the king continued to be at the apex of the judicial administration. But all cases did not go to the King's court. Most of the cases were tried at the village level itself. Cases involving minor disputes were tried by the village assemblies which were known by different names like *Sabha*, *Ur* or *Nagaram* at different places. Each assembly had a separate committee to investigate into the cases arising within the limits of its jurisdiction. This committee was known as *Nyayathar* or the Committee of Justice. The Committee of Justice met in a permanent place usually in the temples of the locality. The inscriptions of this period throw some light on the nature of cases that came before the Committee for trial. They record the trial of both criminal and civil cases. Murder, homicide, adultery, forgery and thefts were the important crimes that came before this committee. Most of the accused in criminal cases were charged of with murder. The usual punishment for wanton murder was the death sentence for the culprit, though there is no source of information to know the exact method of executing the death sentence. But the death sentence was not awarded in every case. Lesser punishment for murder was also known. The culprits were given the benefit of doubt in cases of uncertain proof. But they were asked to make a provision for certain number of perpetual lamps in the local temple. Sometimes the Committee also ordered for the confiscation of the property of the accused and handed over to the treasury of the local temple. The civil cases involved generally petty disputes over properties, etc. Such

<sup>1</sup>. வேலுன்று வென்றி தருவது மன்னன்  
கோலதூஉங் கோடாச் செயின்—(Kural No: 546 D).

<sup>2</sup>. The *Dharmasana* was usually the name of the hall where the King's Court met and decided cases.



cases were also heard by the *Nyayathar* and the punishment for such civil offences was, in most of the cases, to provide for a number of lamps in the local temple. The provision for such lamps normally included a donation of a certain number of sheep or cows for the supply of ghee for lamps. The number of lamps differed from person to person depending on the nature and gravity of crimes committed. In case of disputes among the servants of the temples or of the State, the king deputed a special officer to preside over the *Nyayathar* of the particular locality in hearing the case. The king's representative was assisted by the local authorities like the *Nyayathar* and the members of the local village assemblies.

This system of administration of justice was in practice till the end of the Vijayanagar rule, i.e., the 16th Century A.D. But during the period of the Vijayanagar rule, this system quickly declined and the authority shifted from the village level to the Central Government. The local chiefs of the Vijayanagar kings like the Nayaks and the Poligars became more powerful and they were vested with the rights to administer justice. The authority of the village assemblies thus declined.

Under the Nayak rule the Central Government did not maintain an elaborate judicial system. The administration of justice was left with the local officials like the Poligars. The Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram were the chief of the Poligars and ruled over the Ramanathapuram District. All matters regarding social and religious rights were decided by the Sethupathis and their officials. The judicial department was controlled by the Pradhani. The trial at the Sethupathi's court was conducted publicly. The witnesses were often intimidated and forced to give evidence according to the wishes of the Pradhani. Petty suits were referred to arbitration or they were settled amicably by the intervention of common friends. Ordeals by fire, oil, water and many other processes were also very much in vogue as there were no regular established courts of law. The Sethupathis continued to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction over the Ramanathapuram country till 1795 when their territory passed on to the British.

Administration of justice in the Ramanathapuram region was thoroughly changed after the advent of the British rule. To begin with, there were no regular courts in the area now formed as the Ramanathapuram District and the ordinary disputes were heard and decided by the District Collector. During this time and upto 1910, the present Ramanathapuram District did not exist as a separate District. A major portion of it was included in the Madurai District and the rest in the Tirunelveli District. Thus the history of the evolution of the courts in this District is the same as that in the districts of Madurai and Tirunelveli.

In 1802, a series of Regulations were passed in Madras in order to set up a hierarchy of civil and criminal courts with the definite powers. The Sadr and Foujdari Adalat were the highest courts with jurisdiction over all the districts of the Madras Presidency under the British rule. Below these courts were the Provincial and Circuit Courts with jurisdiction over a group of districts. Next came the Zillah Courts, each with jurisdiction over a particular district. Under the Regulations II and III of 1802 a Zillah Court with very limited powers was established at Ramanathapuram which then formed part of the Madurai District. The Zillah Court was both a civil and a magisterial court and the judicial powers of the Collector were transferred to the Zillah Judge who was both a Civil Judge and a Magistrate. The appeal from the decrees and sentences of the Zillah Court was heard by the Provincial Court located at Tiruchirapalli. The Zillah Court located at Ramanathapuram was abolished in 1808 by Regulation XI of 1808 and was replaced by one at Madurai. In 1812 the Zillah Court at Madurai was again transferred to Ramanathapuram. But in the very next year it was again transferred to Madurai as Ramanathapuram was found to be unsuitable on account of the famine conditions prevailing there.

The Zillah Judge had a Registrar's Court and some Native Commissioner's Courts under his control. The Commissioners were chosen from respectable persons of the locality. They acted either as Referees or Arbitrators in suits referred to them by the Zillah Judge. The Registrar enjoyed the power to try suits involving Rs. 200 in value. His decisions were final in suits not exceeding Rs. 25 in value. In suits involving more than Rs. 25 in value a second appeal lay to the Provincial Court.

In 1814 a Judicial Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir Thomas Munro to reorganise the existing Judicial System. On the recommendations of the Commission, a number of changes were introduced in the judicial system. From 1816, District Munsifs and Village Munsifs were appointed in the districts. The Village Munsifs were the heads of the villages and had powers to try and determine all suits for money or other personal property not exceeding Rs. 10 in value. They were assisted by the Karnams, who conducted and recorded the court proceedings. The village Munsif was also empowered to assemble Village Panchayats for the adjudication of civil suits of any amount within the limits of this village. The decisions of such Panchayats were made final. The District Munsif tried suits involving land and personal property upto Rs. 200 and his decisions were made final in suits involving upto Rs. 20. In suits involving more than Rs. 20 in value, an appeal lay from his decision to the Zillah Court. The decision of the Zillah Court in such cases was made final. Like the Village Munsif, the District Munsif also enjoyed the power to assemble the Village Panchayats and to act as an arbitrator in suits voluntarily referred to him.

In 1816 District Munsif's Courts were established for the first time in the District of Madurai and the District Munsif's Court at Paramagudi exercised jurisdiction over the region that today forms the Ramanathapuram District excluding the taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur. In the same year the headman of each village or group of villages who was known as the *Ambalagar* or *Nattamgar* was invested with the power of civil jurisdiction within his village or villages. This power was invested by the Regulation IV of 1816. The Village Munsif also enjoyed criminal jurisdiction over petty offences committed within the limits of his village. There were at this time five second class Magistrates with their headquarters at Ramanathapuram, Pamban, Mudukulattur, Tiruchuli and Tiruvadanai. There were also subordinates to the Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate who exercised first class criminal jurisdiction over the District.<sup>1</sup>

In 1827 an Auxiliary Zillah Court with increased powers was established at Tirunelveli with jurisdiction over the Ramanathapuram region. It was under an Assistant Judge who was assisted by a Sadr Amin. The Assistant Judge had the jurisdiction to try suits not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value. He also enjoyed appellate jurisdiction over the District Munsifs. A second appeal lay to the Zillah Judge from the decision of the Assistant Judge. But in suits exceeding Rs. 1,000 in value, an appeal lay to the Principal Court. The appeals against the decision of the Sadr Amin were referred to the Assistant Judge.

In 1833, the jurisdiction of the Registrar, the Sadr Amin and the District Munsif were raised to Rs. 3,000, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. In 1836 the special appeals which the British subjects enjoyed from the decisions of the Zillah Court to the Supreme Court were abolished. In 1843 an important change was introduced in the administration of justice.

The Principal Court and the Zillah Court were abolished and a new Zillah Court called "Civil and Sessions Court" was established at Madurai. This Court had its jurisdiction over the Ramanathapuram Region. This new Zillah Court was presided over by a Judge called the Civil and Sessions Judge, who was empowered to try both civil and criminal cases. He heard appeals from the decrees of the Subordinate Judge, the Sadr Amin and the District Munsifs. He could also transfer appeals from the District Munsifs to the Subordinate Judge. Appeals from his court lay to the Sadr Adalat. The Registrar's Court was abolished. This system of judicial administration continued unaltered till the introduction of the codes and the establishment of the High Court in 1861.

The Criminal Tribunals consisted of the Courts of Village Magistrates, Sub Magistrates, the Divisional Magistrates and the District Magistrate and the Sessions Court. There were also Special

<sup>1</sup> *Raminad Manual*—Pages 344—345

Magistrates at some places. There were also Bench Courts of the Magistrates with first and second class powers. The Village Magistrates very rarely exercised their powers. In 1861 Sub-Magistrates were created to try the second and third class cases. The Sub-Magistrates were assisted by Peshkars and head clerks. They also enjoyed the functions of the Police Magistrates. The Tahsildars were vested with police powers and were called Taluk Magistrates. Appeals from the Sub-Magistrates lie to the Divisional and District Magistrates. The decision of these first class Magistrates was appealable to the District Sessions Court.

In 1859, 1860 and 1861 the Civil Procedure Code, the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code were enacted. These codes replaced the former Regulations which till then governed the administration of justice. The Sadr and Foujdari Adalat was abolished and instead the High Court was set up at Madras. The High Court was vested with civil and criminal jurisdiction over all the courts in the Madras Presidency.

In 1873 the present set up of civil courts was established by the Madras Civil Courts Act of 1873. The existing set up of Criminal Courts was established in 1872 by the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872. Under these measures, the District Court, the Subordinate Judges' Courts and the District Munsifs' Courts were established in all the districts. Under the Criminal Procedure Code the Sessions Court and the Courts of first, second and third class Magistrates were established in the districts.

In 1910 when Ramanathapuram was constituted as a separate district, the judicial set up of other districts was extended to this District also. Accordingly, a new District Court was established. A temporary Subordinate judge's Court at Ramanathapuram was also established for the District. At the time of the formation of the new district the following courts were in existence in the District.

| <i>Number.</i><br>(1) | <i>Court.</i><br>(2)                                   | <i>Location.</i><br>(3) |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.                    | Civil and Sessions Court, Ramanathapuram .. ..         | Madurai.                |
| 2.                    | Subordinate Judge's Court, Ramanathapuram (Temporary). | Ramanathapuram.         |
| 3.                    | District Munsif's Court, Sivaganga .. ..               | Sivaganga.              |
| 4.                    | District Munsif's Court, Manamadurai .. ..             | Manamadurai.            |
| 5.                    | District Munsif's Court, (Principal), Paramagudi. ..   | Paramagudi.             |
| 6.                    | District Munsif's Court (Additional), Paramagudi ..    | Paramagudi.             |
| 7.                    | District Munsif's Court, Srivilliputtur .. ..          | Srivilliputtur.         |
| 8.                    | District Munsif's Court, Sattur .. ..                  | Sattur.                 |

The District Judge and the Subordinate Judge were vested with powers to exercise jurisdiction in all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature. The District Munsifs exercised jurisdiction over

such suits and proceedings wherever the amount involved did not exceed Rs. 2,500. In 1916 the jurisdiction of the District Munsifs was raised to Rs. 3,000 by the Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act of 1916. Appeals from the District Court were tried by the High Court. Appeals over the decisions of the Subordinate Judge and the District Munsifs were referred to the District Court, except in cases where the value exceeded Rs. 5,000. In such cases an appeal lay to the High Court.

In certain cases the Subordinate Judges exercised the powers of disposing of appeals from the District Munsif's court within their jurisdiction. The District Judge had also exercised the powers of removing appeals from the District Munsifs to his own court and, with the approval of the High Court, of referring any appeal from the decrees and orders of the District Munsifs preferred to his court to any Subordinate Judge's Court under him. The Madras Civil Courts Act of 1873 vested the Subordinate Judge and the District Munsifs with the powers of a Small Cause Court up to Rs. 500 and Rs. 50 respectively. But in 1914 the jurisdiction of the District Munsif was raised to Rs. 100 generally and to Rs. 200 for a few District Munsifs on the recommendation of the High Court. In 1942, all the District Munsif's courts were vested with small cause powers upto Rs. 300.

In 1915 a permanent Subordinate Judge's Court was established at Ramanathapuram, besides the already existing temporary Subordinate Judge's Court. In the same year the Additional District Munsif's Court at Paramagudi was abolished and an Additional District Munsif's Court each at Srivilliputtur and Sivaganga were established. In 1925 one Additional Subordinate Judge's Court at Sivaganga and another temporary Subordinate Judge's Court at Devakottai were established. Besides, a new District Munsif's Court at Ramanathapuram, a principal District Munsif's Court at Devakottai and Additional District Munsif's Court at Manamadurai, Srivilliputtur, Devakottai and Sivaganga were established.

*Organisation of Civil Courts in the District at Present:*—The administration of civil justice at present in the Ramanathapuram District is headed by the District Judge. He presides over the District Court for Ramanathapuram located at Madurai, which is the principal court of original jurisdiction in the District. It is also a court of appeal in all suits to the value of Rs. 10,000. The District Judge controls the Civil courts like the Subordinate Judge's Courts, Munsif's Courts, etc., in the District. He also inspects the proceedings of these courts at regular intervals. The District Judge is vested with the controlling authority with a view to ensuring speedy and impartial dispensation of civil justice. All appeals against the decisions of the District Judge lie only before the Madras High Court.

Below the District Court are the courts of the Subordinate Judges, the courts of the District Munsifs and the Village Panchayat Courts. The following are the Civil Courts existing at present in the District.

| <i>Serial number.</i> | <i>Court.</i>                                     | <i>Location.</i>       |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| (1)                   | (2)   | (3)                    |
| 1.                    | District Court, Ramanathapuram .. ..              | Madurai.               |
| 2.                    | Subordinate Judge's Court, Devakottai .. ..       | Devakottai.            |
| 3.                    | Subordinate Judge's Court, Ramanathapuram .. ..   | Madurai.               |
| 4.                    | Subordinate Judge's Court, Sivaganga .. ..        | Sivaganga.             |
| 5.                    | District Munsif's Court, Devakottai .. ..         | Devakottai.            |
| 6.                    | District Munsif's Court, Manamadurai .. ..        | Manamadurai.           |
| 7.                    | District Munsif's Court, Paramagudi .. ..         | Paramagudi.            |
| 8.                    | District Munsif's Court, Ramanathapuram .. ..     | Ramanathapuram         |
| 9.                    | District Munsif's Court, Sattur .. ..             | Sattur.                |
| 10.                   | District Munsif's Court, Sivaganga .. ..          | Sivaganga.             |
| 11.                   | District Munsif's Court, Srivilliputtur .. ..     | Srivilliputtur.        |
| 12.                   | Village Panchayat Courts, Devakottai .. ..        | Devakottai Sub. Taluk. |
| 13.                   | Village Panchayat Courts, Vannangundu .. ..       | Ramanathapuram Taluk.  |
| 14.                   | Village Panchayat Court Pattanamkathan .. ..      | Do.                    |
| 15.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Aruppukkottai .. ..      | Aruppukkottai.         |
| 16.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Chinnapuliyampatti .. .. | Aruppukkottai.         |
| 17.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Idaikattur .. ..         | Sivaganga.             |
| 18.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Nattarasankottai .. ..   | Sivaganga.             |
| 19.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Sivaganga .. ..          | Sivaganga.             |
| 20.                   | Village Panchayat Court, Rajapalayam .. ..        | Rajapalayam.           |

The Subordinate Judges try original suits involving high value without any limit, while the Munsifs try original suits involving different amounts of money up to a maximum limits of Rs. 5,000 only. The jurisdiction of the District Judge extends to the whole District. But the jurisdiction of the Subordinate Judge and the Munsifs extends only to a limited and specified area. The Subordinate Judge exercises both original and appellate jurisdiction and the Munsifs exercise only original jurisdiction. The appeals against the decisions of the Subordinate Judge in suits involving not more than Rs. 10,000 in value lie before the District Court. The District Judge enjoys the authority to admit or dismiss appeals against the decisions of the Subordinate Judges upto the value of Rs. 10,000. When the appeals are admitted the District Judge himself disposes them off. The appeals against the decisions of the Munsifs are filed in the District Court. The District Judge may himself dispose them or transfer them to the Subordinate Judges for disposal. The District Judge also enjoys the authority to either admit or dismiss the appeals in miscellaneous cases over the decisions of the Munsifs. But the second appeal over the decisions of the Munsifs lie before the High Court. The District Minsifs are also vested with powers of the Rent

Controller and the Subordinate Judges exercise the appellate jurisdiction over them. The District Judge also enjoys the powers of the Motor Accident claims Tribunal under the provisions of the Madras Motor Vehicles Act of 1959.

The following table shows the number of civil suits received and disposed off in the Courts of the District Munsifs, Subordinate Judges and the District Judge :—

**ORIGINAL CIVIL SUITS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OFF IN THE DISTRICT.**

| Year. | District Munsif's Courts. |           | Subordinate Judge's Court. |           | District Court. |           |     |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----|
|       | Received.                 | Disposed. | Received.                  | Disposed. | Received.       | Disposed. |     |
|       | (1)                       | (2)       | (3)                        | (4)       | (5)             | (6)       | (7) |
| 1955  | ..                        | 2,036     | 2,041                      | 222       | 311             | 21        | 7   |
| 1956  | ..                        | 1,957     | 2,357                      | 157       | 305             | 12        | 10  |
| 1957  | ..                        | 2,013     | 2,316                      | 136       | 245             | 8         | 4   |
| 1958  | ..                        | 1,909     | 2,352                      | 144       | 213             | 11        | 6   |
| 1959  | ..                        | 1,891     | 2,402                      | 163       | 196             | 8         | 7   |
| 1960  | ..                        | 1,986     | 2,479                      | 157       | 195             | 11        | 19  |
| 1961  | ..                        | 2,461     | 2,808                      | 112       | 138             | 18        | 7   |
| 1962  | ..                        | 2,678     | 3,081                      | 195       | 283             | 20        | 11  |
| 1963  | ..                        | 2,733     | 3,150                      | 214       | 224             | 25        | 8   |

**SMALL CAUSE SUITS RECEIVED AND DISPOSED OFF IN THE DISTRICT.**

| Year. | District Munsif's<br>Courts. |           | Subordinate<br>Court |          | Judge's<br>Court. |          | District Court. |          |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
|       | Received.                    | Disposed. | Received.            | Disposed | Receiv.d.         | Disposed | Receiv.d.       | Disposed |
|       |                              |           |                      |          |                   |          |                 |          |
| (1)   | (2)                          | (3)       | (4)                  | (5)      | (6)               | (7)      |                 |          |
| 1955  | ..                           | 4,426     | 3,938                | 405      | 372               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1956  | ..                           | 3,723     | 4,420                | 338      | 478               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1957  | ..                           | 2,763     | 2,885                | 276      | 279               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1958  | ..                           | 2,795     | 2,847                | 264      | 277               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1959  | ..                           | 2,773     | 2,741                | 137      | 307               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1960  | ..                           | 2,677     | 2,796                | 140      | 247               | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1961  | ..                           | 2,935     | 2,968                | 36       | 38                | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1962  | ..                           | 3,196     | 3,205                | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..              |          |
| 1963  | ..                           | 3,310     | 3,318                | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..              |          |

# ORGANISATION OF CRIMINAL COURTS IN THE DISTRICT AT PRESENT

In the administration of criminal justice the Sessions Court is the highest court in the District. The District Judge, Ramanathapuram at Madurai, who presides over the District Court, the principal court of original civil jurisdiction in the District, also presides over the Sessions Court. The Sessions Judge tries all criminal cases committed to sessions by the Magistrates. He enjoys the authority to pass the maximum punishment prescribed for each offence by the Indian Penal Code. The decisions of the Sessions Judge in all cases, except in cases of capital punishment, are final but subject to appeals to the High Court. The death sentence passed by the Sessions Judge has to be confirmed by the High Court. The Sessions Judge has appellate jurisdiction and he tries and decides all appeals from the decisions of the District Magistrates and the First Class Magistrates. He is sometimes assisted by an Additional Sessions Judge or an Assistant Sessions Judge in trying cases. The additional Sessions Judge enjoys the same power as those of the Sessions Judge. The Assistant Sessions Judge enjoys all the powers of the Sessions Judge except to pass sentences of death or transportation or imprisonment for more than ten years.

Below the Sessions Court are the courts of the Magistrates of the First, Second and Third Class such as the District Magistrate (Judicial), the Sub Divisional Magistrates, the Additional First Class Magistrates and Sub-Magistrates (Second Class). The Tahsildars and the Deputy Tahsildars are vested with Second and Third Class powers respectively. The Magistrates with First Class Powers enjoy the authority to try and pass sentences of imprisonment not exceeding two years and to impose fines upto Rs. 1,000. The Magistrates of the Second Class similarly enjoy the powers of passing sentences of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months and of imposing fines upto Rs. 200. The Magistrates of the Third Class enjoy the powers of passing sentences of imprisonment not exceeding one month and of imposing fines not exceeding Rs. 50. The following are the criminal courts existing in the District :—

| <i>Number.</i> | <i>Courts.</i>                               | <i>Location.</i> |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| (1)            | (2)  | (3)              |
| 1.             | Sessions Court, Ramanathapuram .. ..         | Madurai.         |
| 2.             | Assistant Sessions Court, Ramanathapuram ..  | Madurai.         |
| 3.             | Assistant Sessions Court, Sivaganga ..       | Sivaganga.       |
| 4.             | Assistant Sessions Court, Devakottai ..      | Devakottai.      |
| 5.             | District Magistrate's Court, Devakottai ..   | Devakottai.      |
| 6.             | Additional First Class Magistrate's Court .. | Devakottai.      |



| No.<br>(1) | Court.<br>(2)                                   | Location.<br>(3) |
|------------|---|------------------|
| 7.         | Additional First Class Magistrate's Court .. .. | Virudhunagar.    |
| 8.         | Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court .. ..         | Ramanathapuram.  |
| 9.         | Do. .. ..                                       | Sattur.          |
| 10.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Srivilliputtur.  |
| 11.        | Sub-Magistrate's Court .. ..                    | Karaikkudi       |
| 12.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Tiruvadanai.     |
| 13.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Thiruppattur.    |
| 14.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Sivaganga.       |
| 15.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Ramanathapuram.  |
| 16.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Sattur.          |
| 17.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Srivilliputtur.  |
| 18.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Paramagudi.      |
| 19.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Mudukulattur.    |
| 20.        | Do. .. ..                                       | Aruppukottai.    |

In 1951 separation of the Judiciary from the Executive was effected in the District. As a result of the separation, a separate class of Sub-Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and District Magistrate with legal qualifications have been brought into existence in the District for trying criminal cases. All the revenue officials in the District, except the District Collector, ceased to have powers to try criminal cases. But they still enjoy the authority to preserve public peace and to maintain law and order in the District. Under this scheme the District Collector has been made the Additional District Magistrate (Independent). The powers of the Magistrates remain unchanged ; but in 1955 the maximum limit of fines imposed by them was raised to Rs. 100 Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 respectively.

#### STATISTICS OF CRIMINAL CASES.

During 1962, 55 sessions cases, 226 criminal appeals and 10 criminal revision petitions were disposed off. During 1963, 52 sessions cases, 182 criminal appeals and 13 criminal revision petitions were disposed off.

#### BAR ASSOCIATION.

*Srivilliputtur Bar Association* :—The Bar Association at Srivilliputtur came into existence in 1915 with a strength of about 30 members. The strength of the Association went down later when the panchayats were vested with civil jurisdiction.

At present (1964) there are 20 members in the Association. The members pay a monthly subscription of Rs. 2. The Association has a library attached to it.

*Devakottai Bar Association:*—The Bar Association at Devakottai was organised in 1919 with 25 members. The Bar Association has an elected President and an Executive body consisting of the Secretary and executive members elected by the general body.

The Association is located in the Civil Court buildings. The Association has a library attached to it with more than 500 volumes. At present (1964) there are 60 members in the Association.

*Sattur Bar Association:*—The Bar Association at Sattur was constituted in 1911 with 19 members. At present (1964) there are 12 members. The members elect a President and a Secretary every year. The Association has a library attached to it.

*Sivaganga Bar Association:*—The Bar Association at Sivaganga was founded in 1895. At present (1964) there are 40 members on the roll of the Association. The President, the Secretary and other office bearers are elected annually. There is a good library with more than 3,000 volumes. The Association had celebrated its golden jubilee in 1946.

*Paramagudi Bar Association:*—The Bar Association, Paramagudi was constituted in the nineties of the nineteenth century. The actual date of its formation is not known. There are at present (1964) 17 lawyers who are practising at this place. In the past the members of the Association were taking an active and leading part in the Co-operative movement and also in the Administration of the Local Boards.

*Manamadurai Bar Association:*—The Bar Association at Manamadurai was organised a hundred years ago. It is now (1964) located in the premises of the District Magistrate Court which was constructed in 1900. It has a well equipped library.

*Ramanathapuram Bar Association:*—The Bar Association at Ramanathapuram came into existence in 1924 when the Ramanathapuram District Munsif's Court was established. It has drawn up a regular constitution for its function and it came into force in 1959. It has a number of distinguished lawyers among its members.

*Incidence of crimes in the District:*—In recent years the incidence of crimes in the Ramanathapuram District has increased considerably. The reasons for this increase are many, such as increase in population, poverty of the people, unemployment problem etc. Besides these, the District has a section of its people who, for a long time, belong to the criminal tribes. The important crimes reported in the Ramanathapuram District are murder,

rioting, dacoity, robbery, house breaking and cattle and ordinary thefts. The following table shows the number of cases reported under cognizable crimes for 1953—64.

| <i>Year.</i> | <i>Murder.</i> | <i>Dacoity.</i> | <i>Robberies.</i> | <i>House<br/>breaking.</i> | <i>Theft<br/>(Ordinary).</i> | <i>Theft<br/>(Cattle<br/>lifting).</i> |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1953         | 60             | 29              | 59                | 698                        | 1,927                        | 623                                    |
| 1954         | 50             | 21              | 41                | 383                        | 1,006                        | 255                                    |
| 1955         | 56             | 8               | 26                | 299                        | 882                          | 222                                    |
| 1956         | 53             | 10              | 18                | 288                        | 730                          | 176                                    |
| 1957         | 68             | 36              | 16                | 286                        | 802                          | 166                                    |
| 1958         | 73             | 11              | 22                | 333                        | 1,161                        | 179                                    |
| 1959         | 50             | 8               | 32                | 303                        | 974                          | 228                                    |
| 1960         | 55             | 9               | 19                | 321                        | 1,022                        | 189                                    |
| 1961         | 58             | ..              | 11                | 280                        | 820                          | 168                                    |
| 1962         | 52             | 5               | 13                | 220                        | 842                          | 146                                    |
| 1963         | 55             | 2               | 5                 | 249                        | 738                          | 130                                    |
| 1964         | 40             | 3               | 9                 | 276                        | 723                          | 125                                    |

The above table clearly shows that the incidence of crimes in the District has been continuously on the increase. There is general increase in grave crimes and especially murder.

The reasons for murder are more than one namely sex, family disputes, factions etc. House breaking and ordinary thefts have considerably increased. In 1957 this District registered the largest number of cases in the whole Madras State under dacoity. In 1960 it registered the third highest number of dacoities in the State. In 1959 the District registered the second highest number of robberies. In the state, the first being Tirunelveli District.

**House Breaking:**—It occurs in all parts of the year. Maravars, Koravars and the Pallars are the criminals who indulge in this type of offences. In house breaking most common device is the use of hole made in the roof. Making hole near the bolt at the threshold, lifting the latch by inserting a hand and lock picking are the other forms adopted in this crime.

**Cattle Theft:**—Maravars and Kallars are generally addicted to cattle thefts which frequently occur in the District. Cow and buffalo thefts are rare. Bulls are stolen for sale and *Tuppu Cooly*. They are very rarely retained by the thieves. These thefts are not confined to any particular area.

The criminals have a wide field of operation and enter into the adjoining Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. There are also middle men who keep cattle concealed for the thieves. There are *Tuppu Cooly* agents among Maravars and they do not betray their kinsmen unless they have their own axe to grind. After the *Tuppu Cooly* is paid and before the cattle are delivered, the owners of the cattle are bound down by promise not to reveal the payment to any one and particularly to the Police. Personal sureties are sometimes demanded by culprits to enforce the promise. Promissary notes are occasionally taken in the name of the third person as though cash payment was made to the owner of the cattle. After the payment of *Tuppu Cooly* and after all warnings and assurance the culprit directs the owners to go and wait at certain places generally after sun set and the cattle are set at large. In reported cases where the cattle are returned after clue-hire, the cattle are kept concealed by the owners themselves till the cases are disposed of, or get them impounded in a pound at the convenience of the pound keepers and get them released. In some other cases the cattle are said to have been traced in some grazing fields. In cases where the offenders are notable to get the clue-hire they pass off the cattle to the neighbouring districts and dispose them off in the neighbouring shandies or to private individuals through cattle brokers. In case where the owners are persistent to get back the cattle with police assistance, the cattle are destroyed and skin disposed of.

**Riots:**—Ramanathapuram District was mainly a zamin area, except for the two taluks of Sattur and Srivilliputtur. The Zamin taluks consisted of Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur, Sivaganga Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Aruppukkottai and Paramagudi. These form the eastern portion of Ramanathapuram District. Maravars formed the major section of the population of the eastern region. There are also Madras Nadars, Mohammedans, Agambadiars, Harijans and other castes. Each village in East Ramanathapuram District in variably consisted both Maravars and Harijans. As Agriculture is the main occupation of the people, they are dependent on a few tanks for irrigation. Wherever there was paucity of irrigation facilities and failure of the regular mode of existence, the predominant group had no other go than plundering and stealing to eke out a living.

The Mudukulattur Taluk has been the scene of occurrence of crimes due to the predatory activities of sections making a living by illegal activities.

These crimes were further fomented by a number of other extraneous cause which may be listed as follows: lack of roads, difficulties in the way of road buildings in a region which is predominantly black cotton soil and the inadequacy of police force in the region for the proper maintenance of law and order.

In this predominantly Zamindari tract the Government, perhaps did not choose to incur large expenditure on the maintenance of top heavy administration. The recurrent threat to law and order in this part of the District is to a large extent attributed to the tension between the Maravas on one side and the Nadars and the Harijans on the otherside. It is not confined to the Mudukulattur Taluk alone. It is spread far and wide in the whole District. The origin of trouble may be traced back to the year 1898—99. Religious and social causes were apparently at work. The Nadars claimed that they were descendants of Kshatriyas by caste, while Maravas considered Nadars as inferior to them in social status. The Nadars made several attempts from time to time to claim social equality with the other Hindus and made forcible entry into the Hindu temples with the result there were serious disturbances in many places. In 1898—99 there was out-burst of violence at Sivakasi when Nadar villages were pillaged and plundered. After this riot Nadars organised themselves and as a protective measure lived together in certain concentrations. In 1918 there was rising of the Maravas against the Nadars in what was known as the Kamu looting. During this serious breach of peace there was much agreement between the Harijans and the Nadars and in the subsequent years the Harijans were also considered to be the opponents of the Maravas.

During the general election of 1957 a candidate of the Forward Block was elected to the Madras Assembly and to Lok Sabha from Mudukulattur constituency. The propaganda during the election caused much strained relationship between the Maravas, the Harijans and the Nadars.

A peace conference was organised by the District Collector on 16th September 1959 in which leaders of the Maravas and the Harijans took part. But this conference did not succeed in bringing about amity among the two communities. On 11th September 1957 the representative of the Harijans by name Imanuel Sekaran was murdered. This gave signal for widespread lawlessness and violence attended with arson and looting. There were disturbances in Keelathooval, Keerandi, Parambacheri and Ulithamalai where the police had to open fire resulting in the death of 14 persons.

When there was severe loss of property of Harijans residing in the villages of Kadukkakulam, Nalur, Udhayanendal, Melendal, Panaikudi, Irunchirai, Sengamadai, Dharmam, Kambali, Keela Idayangulam, Korakulam, etc., the Government took firm measures to control the disturbance. The Malabar Special Armed Police was stationed at various places in Mudukulattur, Aruppukkottai and Paramagudi taluks. A special Superintendent of Police was appointed by the Government to deal with the situation at his Headquarters at Paramagudi. A Special Deputy Superintendent of Police was also appointed in Mudukulattur. The Police force was increased considerably and with great vigilance and patrol the

mischievous makers and the leaders who were responsible for the communal disturbance were arrested and charge-sheeted by the Police. Gradually the bitterness began to vanish and gave place to peace and better understanding among the contending factions.

Towards the pacification of this faction torn region the Government rightly placed its fingers on the danger spots i.e. the economic distress, that caused much ill feeling and disturbance of peace. A policy for the economic development of the Mudukulattur region by opening of roads, technical schools and industrial estates has been actively formed by which it is hoped that in the years to come the spell of prosperity will keep at bay the economic distress that caused strained relationship between sections of the population.

**Prohibition Offences:**—Prohibition is in force in the District. The provisions of the Prohibition Act are often violated. The following table shows the number of cases charge-sheeted and the number of persons involved for offences under the Prohibition Act :—

| Year. | Cases. | Persons. |
|-------|--------|----------|
| 1956  | 4,018  | 3,984    |
| 1957  | 3,587  | 3,405    |
| 1958  | 2,737  | 2,629    |
| 1959  | 1,675  | 1,669    |
| 1960  | 1,800  | 1,785    |
| 1961  | 1,790  | 1,741    |
| 1962  | 2,039  | 2,007    |
| 1963  | 2,297  | 2,255    |
| 1964  | 2,724  | 2,714    |

#### POLICE ORGANISATION.

**Evolution:**—The ancient police system that was in practice in the Ramanathapuram region was known as the *Kudikaval*. This was a kind of "Village Watch" which represented the simple and effective device of a group of people for protecting the lives and property of the people of the village from evil neighbours. Every village had a *Kudikavalgar*, the people's watchman. He was in charge of tracing the criminals and of recovering the stolen property. In case of his failure to recover such property, he was to compensate the loss from his own resources. The office of the *Kudikavalgar* was hereditary. He was paid by the villagers, who contribute towards this at the time of harvest. He was also given Government lands towards his remuneration.

In 1559, the whole of the Madura country which included the Ramanathapuram region came under Viswanatha Nayak. Soon after he became the ruler of the region, Viswanatha Nayak instituted the Poligar system by which this territory was divided into many divisions, each division being entrusted to one of his trusted chieftains. The Sethupathis became the poligars of Ramanathapuram. The institution of the Poligar system gave a death knell to the *Kudikaval* system. Under the Poligar system, the entire authority was in the hands of the Sethupathis. The Sethupathis instituted a new system of police called *Desakaval* in their territory. The *desakaval* was maintained by the levy of fees from the people. A special constabulary assisted by a small band of army was established to protect people from and to deal with the law-breakers like the Kallars on the high roads in the jungles and along the District borders. But the system of *desakaval* developed into one of cruelty and torture and the whip was freely used for levying the tax for *desakaval*. Sometimes the whole villagers were put into confinement or even put to death. Every kind of violence and cruelty was committed till the taxes were collected. Besides the tax for *desakaval*, fees were levied on ploughs, shops, looms, etc. Besides the *desakaval*, there were other institutions like the *Disai Kaval* or service of continually watching certain tracts or the country and *Pathai Kaval* or service of watching roads and mountain passes. These institutions were entrusted to certain officials who were responsible to prevent robbery, violence and disturbance within the limits of their jurisdiction. These officers were known as *Thumbachi*, *Disai Kaval*, *Terkitti Kaval* and *Dalavoy Kaval*<sup>1</sup>.

By 1795 the Ramanathapuram region came under the control of the British. Soon the English found it necessary to deprive the *Kavalgars* of the police duties. New posts like the Jamedars, Duffedars and peons were created and the revenue officers like the Tahsildars, Karnams etc., were appointed with a view to put a check on the *Sthala Kavalgars*. These officers were generally called the *Sibbandis* and they, with the assistance of the *Kavalgars*, apprehended all offenders. Besides these officers, there were a few *Kotwals*, who were expected to make good the loss of the public through robbery and theft. But this responsibility of the *Kotwals* could not be maintained because of the existence of the criminal tribes like the Kallars and Maravas who committed murders, thefts and robberies. About 1802 the *Sthalakaval* system was abolished by a proclamation and a new police force was created by the Madras Regulation XXXV of 1802. By the Regulation a number of Police Officers called Daroghas and Tanadars were employed under the control of the Collector. The Collector exercised the powers of the Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police. But in 1808 the police powers of the Collector were transferred to the Zillah Judge, who became solely responsible for the maintenance of law and order. All criminal complaints were referred to the Zillah Judge while the Police cases were referred to the Daroghas.

<sup>1</sup> *Ramanad Manual*,—pages 344-45.

In 1816, certain police reforms, based on the recommendations of a special Police Committee, were introduced in all the districts. By these reforms the *Kaval* system was completely abolished. The Police was reorganised under the control of the heads of villages, the Tahsildars, the Zamindars, the Amins of Police and the Kotwals. The Magistracy and the Police powers were transferred once again to the District Collectors from the Zillah Judges. The heads of the villages carried on their police duties with the assistance of the Talaiyaris and other village officials. The Zamindars were the heads of police in their Zamindaris and the Amins of Police were appointed in large towns. The District Collector was responsible to maintain law and order in the whole district.

A new police system was introduced in the whole State in 1859. A separate department for Police was established with an Inspector-General of Police as the Head of the Department. The Inspector-General of Police was assisted by a few Deputy Inspector-Generals who enjoyed the controlling authority over a group of districts. Madurai and Tirunelveli Districts which included parts of the present Ramanathapuram District were under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range. Each District was in charge of the District Superintendents of Police, who were, except in matters affecting discipline, placed under the District Magistrates. Below the Superintendents of Police, there were Inspectors, Constables, and the Village Police. In 1861, this new Police system was introduced in the Madurai District, and in the Tirunelveli District in 1862. Thus the control of the Police in the respective areas of the present Ramanathapuram District was administered by the Superintendents of Police Madurai and Tirunelveli Districts. There was a separate Inspector of Police assisted by a few constables posted at Ramanathapuram.

The changes introduced in the police system remained the same to the present day except for some minor changes introduced from time to time. The important changes introduced since then were the formation of the Criminal Intelligence Department and the Railway Police as supplements to the regular police. In 1880, the Tahsildars, were again entrusted with police powers with a view to prevent and detect crimes more effectively. In the same year the necessity to prevent refined crimes like forgery, false evidence, poisoning, cheating and conspiracy was very greatly felt. Besides, the development of railways warranted a special department of police to ensure safety in railways. To meet this requirement the Criminal Intelligence Department and the Railway Police were organised in 1880.

In 1910, the Ramanathapuram District was formed with portions cut out of Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. Immediately after its formation the District was divided into three divisions namely (1) Sattur Division, (2) Ramanathapuram Division and (3) Devakottai Division. The Sattur Division included the taluks of Sattur



and Srivilliputtur, while the Ramanathapuram Division included those of Arupukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur and Paramagudi and the Devakottai Division contained the taluks of Sivaganga, Tiruppattur and Tiruvadani. In 1912, there were altogether 57 police stations and one out-post in the District. There were 8 Inspectors of Police, 39 Sub-Inspectors, 78 Head Constables, 545 Constables, 21 Police Talaiyaris and 1,229 Revenue Talaiyaris in the Police force of the District. In 1926 the name of the Sattur Division was changed into Sivakasi Division.

*The Police Force in the District at present;*—Madras State is divided into three ranges as Western, Central and Southern. The Ramanathapuram District is included in the Southern Range with its headquarters at Madurai. The District comes under the general control and jurisdiction of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range.

The Police Force in the District is under the charge of a Superintendent of Police with his headquarters at Madurai. The District has been divided into six sub-divisions, viz., (1) Ramanathapuram, (2) Sivaganga, (3) Sivakasi, (4) Kamudi (5) Mudukulattur. Manamadurai. Each of these divisions is under the immediate supervision and control of the Deputy Superintendent of Police. These sub-divisions are divided into 13 circles, each circle being controlled by an Inspector of Police. There are 71 police stations and 13 out-posts in the District, each police station under the control of a Sub-Inspector. There are 97 Sub-Inspectors of Police in the District including those who are in Station, Special Branch Motor Vehicle Taxation, Home Guards, etc. Besides there are 230 Head Constables and 1,986 Police Constables in the District.

| <i>Circle.</i>       | <i>Stations.</i>          | <i>Out-post.</i>  |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| B. Ramnad .. ..      | 1. Ramanathapuram .. ..   | .. ..             |
|                      | 2. Ramoswaram .. ..       | Dhanushkodi.      |
|                      | 3. Kilakkarai .. ..       | .. ..             |
|                      | 4. Mantapam .. ..         | Uchipuli.         |
|                      | 5. Devipatnam .. ..       | .. ..             |
| C. Manamadurai .. .. | 1. Manamadurai .. ..      | .. ..             |
|                      | 2. Tiruppuvanam .. ..     | .. ..             |
|                      | 3. Tiruppachetti .. ..    | .. ..             |
|                      | 4. Mukkulam .. ..         | .. ..             |
| D. Paramagudi .. ..  | 1. Paramagudi .. ..       | .. ..             |
|                      | 2. Ilayangudi .. ..       | .. ..             |
|                      | 3. Nainarkoil .. ..       | .. ..             |
|                      | 4. Nariikkudi .. ..       | .. ..             |
|                      | 5. Parthibanur .. ..      | Kattanur.         |
|                      | 6. Chatrakudi .. ..       | .. ..             |
| E. Sivaganga .. ..   | 1. Sivaganga .. ..        | .. ..             |
|                      | 2. Madagupatti .. ..      | .. ..             |
|                      | 3. Kallal .. ..           | .. ..             |
|                      | 4. Kalaiyarkoil .. ..     | .. ..             |
| F. Karaikkudi .. ..  | 1. Karaikkudi South .. .. | .. ..             |
|                      | 2. Karaikkudi North .. .. | Alagappa College. |
|                      | 3. Pallathur .. ..        | .. ..             |
|                      | 4. Sakkottai .. ..        | .. ..             |

| <i>Circle.</i>          | <i>Stations.</i>                    | <i>Out-post.</i>           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| F. Karaikkudi—cont. ..  | 5. Kunnakkudi .. ..                 | ..                         |
|                         | 6. Chettinad .. ..                  | ..                         |
| G. Devakottai .. ..     | 1. Devakottai Town ..               | Velayuthapatnam            |
|                         | 2. Devakottai Taluk ..              | Kandadevi.                 |
|                         | 3. Rajasingamangalam ..             | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Tiruvadanai .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Tondis .. ..                     | Sundarapandia-<br>patnam.  |
|                         | 6. Thiruppalakudi ..                | ..                         |
| H. Tiruppattur .. ..    | 1. Tiruppattur .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 2. Sathurvedamangalam ..            | Sethurusamkara.<br>kottai. |
|                         | 3. Olagampetti .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Neikuppai .. ..                  | Poolangurichi.             |
|                         | 5. Keelasevalpatti ..               | ..                         |
| K. Sivakasi .. ..       | 1. Sivakasi Town ..                 | ..                         |
|                         | 2. Watrap .. ..                     | ..                         |
|                         | 3. Nethampatti .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Amathur .. ..                    | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Virudhunagar East ..             | Sulakarai.                 |
|                         | 6. Virudhunagar West ..             | ..                         |
|                         | 7. Sivakasi Taluk at<br>Tiruthanal. | ..                         |
|                         | 8. Pudupatti.                       | ..                         |
| L. Srivilliputtur .. .. | 1. Srivilliputtur Town ..           | ..                         |
|                         | 2. Srivilliputtur Taluk ..          | ..                         |
|                         | 3. Rajapalayam Town ..              | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Rajapalayam Taluk ..             | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Vadegarai .. ..                  | ..                         |
| M. Sattur .. ..         | 1. Sattur .. ..                     | Irukkangudi.               |
|                         | 2. Appainaiickenpatti ..            | ..                         |
|                         | 3. Vembakottai .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Vachakarapatti .. ..             | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Elayirampennai ..                | ..                         |
| N. Kamudi .. ..         | 1. Kamudi .. ..                     | Keelpudi.                  |
|                         | 2. Koilangulam .. ..                | ..                         |
|                         | 3. Keelaparalachi .. ..             | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Sayalkudi .. ..                  | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Perunali .. ..                   | ..                         |
| P. Mudukulattur .. ..   | 1. Mudukulattur .. ..               | ..                         |
|                         | 2. Kadaledi .. ..                   | Keelasoluvanur.            |
|                         | 3. Sikkal. .. ..                    | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Abiramam .. ..                   | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Peraiyur .. ..                   | ..                         |
|                         | 6. Elanjambanoor .. ..              | ..                         |
|                         | 7. Thooval. .. ..                   | ..                         |
| R. Aruppukkottai .. ..  | 1. Aruppukkottai Town ..            | ..                         |
|                         | 2. Aruppukkottai Taluk ..           | ..                         |
|                         | 3. Pandalgudi .. ..                 | ..                         |
|                         | 4. Kariapatti .. ..                 | ..                         |
|                         | 5. Tiruchuli .. ..                  | ..                         |

The important functions of the Police in the District include prevention and detection of crimes, maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property and the prosecution of criminals. Besides, the Police have to carry out certain other duties such as

controlling the traffic on the thoroughfares of important towns in the District, enforcement of prohibition laws, etc. To fulfil all these responsibilities the Police have got the following different branches:

1. *Armed Reserves*:—For the Armed Reserves in the District a staff containing one Deputy Superintendent of Police, three Reserve Inspectors, nine Reserve Sub-Inspectors, eight Reserve Assistant Sub Inspectors, 44 Head Constables and 503 Constables have been sanctioned.

2. *District Special Branch*:—The District Special Branch has its Headquarters at Madurai and the staff consists of one Inspector, four Sub-Inspectors, 13 Head Constables and one Police Constable.

3. *Motor Vehicles Taxation Staff*:—The Motor Vehicles Taxation Staff of Ramanathapuram at Madurai consists of one Sub-Inspector of Police and one Head Constable. They work under the direct control and supervision of the Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram at Madurai. They move about to various parts in the District on a programme approved by the Superintendent of Police. Their diaries are personally scrutinised by the Superintendent of Police.

The main duty of the Motor Vehicles Taxation staff is to check up all motor vehicles to see that the tax due in respect of all the motor vehicles is regularly paid, and that too within the grace time allowed by the Government, by the concerned owners and to collect the arrears of tax from the owners who evade payment, by launching prosecution in the Court under section 7 of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.

The staff is also helpful in checking the permits issued to Public and Private carriers and State Carriages and in preventing vehicles without permit being used on public roads. This helps in the collection of the due permit charges from the concerned operators.

4. *Criminal Investigation Department*:—There is a District Intelligence Bureau Housed in the office of the Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram at Madurai with the staff of one Inspector and six Head Constables.

5. *Prohibition Squad*:—A separate squad of the Police known as the prohibition squad was not in existence in this District. There were two prohibition mobile parties one at Sivaganga and an other at Sivakasi in existence in this District. The Sivaganga Prohibition Mobile Party was operating at Kamudi formerly. During the middle of 1964 the Headquarters of this party was changed to Sivaganga. Both these parties were under the administrative control of S.D.O., Sivakasi and Sivaganga. Sub Inspector was in-charge of each party. There was no District Intelligence Bureau of Prohibition in this District to assist the Po

in apprehending prohibition offenders. The District Police themselves apprehended prohibition offenders and enforced prohibition laws in the District. In the District Intelligence Bureau, Ramanathapuram at Madurai there was a section under the charge of a Head Constable which works after the prohibition work of the District. Officials of all departments, especially those of the Forest Department and the Village Officers were required to render assistance to the Police in their task of enforcing prohibition laws in the District. The Co-operation of the public was also enlisted by the Police through Taluk Prohibition Committees and a number of Village Vigilance Committees all over the District. But now (1971) prohibition has been suspended all over the State.

**6. Home Guards:**—So far 230 Home Guards have been trained by a staff of one Sub-Inspector, one Reserve Sub-Inspector, one Reserve Assistant Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable, one Sub-Officer and one Madras Fire Service Leading Fireman.

**7. Fire Service:**—For the administration of Fire Service System the State has been divided into two regions viz., Northern Region and Southern Region. Each Region is under the control of a Chief Fire Officer. The Southern Region has been divided into several divisions and the Ramanathapuram District is included in the Palayamkottai division of the Southern Region. There are four fire stations in this District, viz., Karaikkudi Virudhunagar, Sivakasi and Rajapalayam. The important duty of these fire stations is to put out fire and to rescue people from dangers like drowning, house collapse etc. Each station has an ambulance van for removing the patients to the hospitals in urgent cases. The fire station works around the clock and it does not levy charge for putting out a fire.

**Recruitment and Training:**—Recruitment of Police Constables is made at the District level. Candidates for the post of constables are provisionally selected by the District Superintendent of Police. Their names are kept in the waiting list after due medical check up and are appointed when vacancies arise. After the candidates are selected, they are sent to the Police Recruits School at Coimbatore where they are given nine months training. Those among the constables who have served as Police Station writers for a period of at least six months are permitted to sit for a promotion examination which includes written, oral and practical tests. The successful candidates are included in the promotion list and are promoted as Head Constables whenever vacancies arise.

The candidates for the post of Police Constables are required to fulfil the following qualifications :—

- (a) Must have studied up to III Form or VIII Standard;
- (b) Must be not less than 168 centimetres in height ;
- (c) Must be not less than 86 centimetres round the chest on full inspiration with a minimum expansion of five centimetres.

(d) must have completed 18 years of age but must be below 25 years of age. Relaxation in age-limit is allowed to those who have already served in the army, navy or air force.

Recruitment of subordinate police officers like the Sub-Inspectors of Police is made by a Board of the Public Service Commission with the Inspector-General of Police as one of its members. The selected candidates are sent to the Police Training College at Vellore for training for one year.

**Jails:—**There are ten sub-jails in the District at the following places :—

1. Srivilliputtur ; 2. Sattur ; 3. Virudhunagar ; 4. Aruppukkottai ; 5. Mudukulattur ; 6. Ramanathapuram ; 7. Paramagudi ; 8. Sivaganga ; 9. Tiruppattur ; 10. Tiruvadanai.

The particulars of the number of cells in each jail and the number of prisoners who can be accommodated in each jail are furnished below :—

| Place at which Sub-jail located. |    | Number of cells. | Number of Persons that can be admitted. |
|----------------------------------|----|------------------|---|
| 1. Ramanathapuram                | .. | 13               | 89                                      |
| 2. Paramagudi                    | .. | 8                | 13                                      |
| 3. Mudukulattur                  | .. | 4                | 18                                      |
| 4. Sivaganga                     | .. | 6                | 20                                      |
| 5. Tiruvadanai                   | .. | 4                | 12                                      |
| 6. Tiruppattur                   | .. | 3                | 42                                      |
| 7. Aruppukkottai                 | .. | 6                | 18                                      |
| 8. Virudhunagar                  | .. | 9                | 17                                      |
| 9. Sattur                        | .. | 6                | 24                                      |
| 10. Srivilliputtur               | .. | 10               | 24                                      |
| Total                            | .. | 68               | 223                                     |

The prisoners are given free food, bedding and clothing at Government cost. *Cumblies* are also supplied to the prisoners. Doctors from the Local Government Hospital attend on the sick prisoners in the sub-jail. Non-officials who are specially appointed as honorary visitors to jails and supervising officers who camp in these places pay visits to the sub-jails and they are allowed to make their observations in the visitors books available at each sub-jail. Each sub-jail has warders to look after the admission, release, etc., and to assist the sub-jail Superintendent. The Headquarters Deputy Tahsildars of each taluk are the Sub-jail Superintendents. The Police Department is looking after the safety of the sub-jails.

**Arrangements for Control and Supervision:—**The sub-jails at Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, Mudukulattur, Sivaganga, Tiruvadanai, Tiruppattur, Aruppukkottai, Sattur and Srivilliputtur

are under the control of the respective head-quarters Deputy Tahsildars of the taluks. The sub-jail at Virudhunagar is under the control of the Independent Deputy Tahsildar, Virudhunagar.

**Welfare of Prisoners :—**Persons committed to custody pending trial or preliminary investigation, criminal prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for one month and less and enroute prisoners alone are confined in the sub-jails as a temporary measure. Hence no arrangements have been provided for vocational training, education, recreation etc. Besides the official visitors, the non-official visitors have also been appointed according to the provisions contained in chapter IV of the Subsidiary Jail Manual. They inspect the sub-jails and satisfy themselves that the law and rules regulating the management of sub-jails and prisoners are properly carried out. Any defect noticed by them is got rectified then and there.

**Treatment of Special Classes of Prisoners—delinquents, politic prisoners etc :—**The special class prisoners are kept separate from ordinary prisoners and adolescents from adults. The special class undertrial prisoners are treated in the same way as A class convicts in the matter of privileges and concessions. The scale of diet prescribed for special class prisoners varies from that prescribed for ordinary prisoners.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

A brief note on the activities of departments which have not been dealt with in other chapters is given in this chapter.

(a) *Public Works Department*:—The Ramanathapuram Division, Madurai was constituted with effect from 1st April 1932 as per the orders of the Government.<sup>1</sup> This division was having only two sub-divisions under its control as noted below :—

1. Madurai Sub-division, Madurai (permanent) having jurisdiction over entire Madurai City and irrigation and building works in the Tirumangalam Taluk, a portion of Madurai and Nilakkottai taluks.

2. Ramanathapuram Sub-division at Madurai (temporary) have jurisdiction over the Ramanathapuram District for both irrigation and building works. In those times, a major portion of the District was under the control of Zamindar. Therefore, the division was having major irrigation works in Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks only. The Government buildings were spread over the Ramanathapuram District. The Ramanathapuram Division was continued as temporary division, year after year and its permanent retention was ordered.<sup>2</sup>

After independence, the major and minor irrigation works in the Ramanathapuram District were taken over by the Government due to abolition of Zamindars. A separate Food Production Division under the control of the Board of Revenue was formed. The functions of these divisions were to take over irrigation works from Zamindars repair them and fix standards, etc. The tanks were handed over to the Public Works Department and Revenue Department for future maintenance. The work of the Ramanathapuram Sub-division which was having jurisdiction over the entire District increased considerably. Necessary proposals to bifurcate this sub-division into two were submitted. The Government have also pleased to sanction one more sub-division with requisite staff to cope up with the increased work.<sup>3</sup>

With effect from 1st October 1953, the Ramanathapuram Sub-division was bifurcated into two and the headquarters were also shifted to Srivilliputtur and Sivaganga. The jurisdiction of both the sub-divisions was as follows :—

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Srivilliputtur Sub-division | Major Irrigation and building works in Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukottai and Mudukulattur Taluks. |
|-----------------------------|--|

1. G.O Ms. No. 725, Public Works dated 23rd March 1932.

2. G.O. Ms. No 29, Public Works, dated 3rd January 1953.

3. G.O. Ms. No. 3412, P.W.D., dated 17th August 1953.

**Sivaganga Sub-division:**—Major irrigation works handed over from Zamindars and building works in Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai and Paramagudi taluks.

The Government have also ordered to form a sub-division with its headquarters at Madurai.<sup>1</sup> The main function of this sub-division is to investigate and prepare memoir to the ex-zamindari tanks in the entire Ramanathapuram District.

As this division was having jurisdiction over Madurai City also, orders were issued to form a Sub-division to attend to works of Madurai Medical College. The preliminary work of Madurai Medical College was attended to by this Division. This Division was having full work, both irrigation and buildings in the entire Ramanathapuram District and a portion of the Madurai District including Madurai City.

Unfortunately, due to unprecedented rain during November 1955, cyclone swept over the entire Ramanathapuram District especially in the eastern portion of the District. The Ramanathapuram District was having a number of irrigation tanks. The Government ordered the formation of six special divisions and one Circle for the Ramanathapuram District alone to attend to cyclone relief work and to bring all tanks (Government, Private, Major and Minor) to pre-cyclonic condition. The special staff was functioning from January 1956 to April 1958. Therefore the entire irrigation work in the Ramanathapuram District was attached to the Special Division. The Ramanathapuram Division was left with building works alone in the Ramanathapuram District with one sub-division at Aruppukkottai.

In addition to Five-Year Plan works, the Government took Police Housing Scheme also throughout the District. The one sub-division meant for building works in the Ramanathapuram District was managing it with great difficulty having jurisdictions over the entire Ramanathapuram District.

During April 1958, the Government had ordered winding up of the special establishment sanctioned for cyclone work leaving only one sub-division to attend to the irrigation work in the District under the control of this division. This sub-division was located at Ramanathapuram.

Due to increased activities of this Department under Second Five-Year Plan the Government have sanctioned formation of another sub-division for buildings. The existing two sub-division

1. (G.O. Ms. No. 3729, P.W.D. dated 20th October 1954).



one at Arupukkottai and another at Ramanathapuram were having overlapping jurisdiction. With the sanction of the third sub-division, the Superintending Engineer, Tiruchirapalli Circle ordered redistribution of jurisdiction in the Ramanathapuram District as follows:

1. One sub-division at Virudhunagar for works in Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Arupukkottai taluks.

2. Second sub-division (temporary) at Paramagudi for works in Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur taluks.

3. Third sub-division at Karaikkudi (temporary) for works in Sivaganga, Tirupattur and Tiruvadanai taluks.

In the meantime, the Madurai Medical College work began and it was attached to a Special Division which was solely sanctioned for Madurai Medical College Scheme.

During 1961 it was ordered that all irrigation works in the Ramanathapuram District other than Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks may be handed over to Food Production Division for maintenance. Accordingly these works have been handed over to Food Production Department having only building works under the charge of this Division.

The Ramanathapuram Division underwent so many changes during the recent years, having jurisdiction in both the districts of Ramanathapuram and Madurai. The other part in the Madurai District, Periyar Division was also having heavy work load due to completion of Vaigai Projects. It has been decided to redistribute the works in three Divisions by forming a new division as Madurai Division.\* Accordingly, orders were issued redistributing the jurisdiction among the three divisions. Due to this change, this division had to surrender the jurisdiction in the Madurai District.

With effect from 1st May 1962, this Division is having jurisdiction only in the Ramanathapuram District over all building works and major irrigation works in the Srivilliputtur Taluk. It is also worth mentioning that the control of this Division was also transferred to the Superintending Engineer, Tirunelveli Circle with effect from 9th February 1963 from the Superintending Engineer, Tiruchirapalli Circle.

The Ramanathapuram Division has the following five sub-divisions for the promotion of small and Minor Irrigation Projects:

|                             | (1)          | (2) | (3)  |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----|--|
| 1 Virudhunagar Sub-division | .. Permanent | ..  | For attending to regular maintenance of Government buildings and Irrigation works in Sattur and Srivilliputhur taluks. |
| 2 Karaikkudi Sub-division.. | .. Temporary | ..  |  |
| 3 Paramagudi Sub-division   | .. Temporary | ..  |  |

1. G.O. Ms. No. 8315, dated 1st October 1960.

2. G.O. No. 74, Public Works, dated 8th January 1962,

- 4 Small Minor Irrigation Project Temporary .. For Small Minor Irrigation  
(Exe.) Sub-division, Sattur. Project work in the Sattur Taluk.
- 5 Small Minor Irrigation Project Temporary .. For investigation and to  
(Investigation). bring the ex-Zamin tank in Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks to standard.

#### STATISTICAL DETAILS.

|   | (1) | (2) |
|---|-----|-----|
| Number of buildings under the jurisdiction of Ramanathapuram division, Madurai. |     | 161 |
| Number of tanks under the jurisdiction of Ramanathapuram division, Madurai.     |     | 55  |
| Newly formed tanks .. .. .  |     | 4   |
| Improvements to tanks and formation of new tanks in progress.                   |     | 8   |

(b) *Agricultural Department—Sattur Division*:—The headquarters of the District Agricultural Officer was fixed at Sattur. He was in charge of the activities for the Sattur Taluk in addition to his over all control on the Agricultural Demonstrators who were in charge of each taluk. Each Demonstrator was given one Fieldman and one Demonstration Maistry for each firka. A separate Demonstrator was appointed for the Sattur Taluk during 1945-46 making the number of Demonstrators nine to this District. During 1949-50, the Engineering Section under the control of the District Agricultural Officer was started; assisted by one Agricultural Engineering Supervisor, Foreman, Mechanics, etc. During 1950-51, a Firka Development Officer was appointed to look after the Agricultural Developments of Malli Firka with a staff of one Demonstrator, one Fieldman and one Demonstration Maistry. An Engineering Branch was in existence to bring out the oil engines, pumpsets and tractors under the supervision of the agricultural engineering staff. Research under Vergenia Tobacco was taken up at Elayirampennai in lease lands. Thakkavi loans for Rs. 23,000 for the purchase of seeds and manure and Rs. 2,000 for the purchase of agricultural implements were given to the ryots. Towards Grow More Food Campaign, Special Seed Development Officers, Seed Development Assistants, etc. were appointed. Sub-depots were opened for the easy reach of the agricultural materials to the ryots.

Since the number of agricultural depots were increasing it was found not possible to look after the activities of the Department by one District Agricultural Officer. Hence the jurisdiction was bifurcated from 16th November 1957. Another District Agricultural Officer was appointed with headquarters at Sivaganga. The District Agricultural Officer, Sattur started functioning with headquarters

at Sattur with the Jurisdiction of Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Aruppukottai and Mudukulattur and the rest of the taluks, viz., Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai, Sivaganga and Tiruppattur taluks were under the control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sivaganga.

One More District Agricultural Officer has been sanctioned for the District in 1964 with headquarters at Ramanathapuram. His jurisdiction extends to the revenue taluks of Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram and Mudukulattur. The remaining three revenue taluks of Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukottai are under the jurisdiction of the District Agricultural Officer at Sattur.

*Remarks of Intensive Agricultural Programme Section:—*In connection with the implementation of the Intensive Cultivation Programme for increasing the production of food crops, an additional District Agricultural Officer was sanctioned by the Government during 1964-65 and the jurisdiction of the three District Agricultural Officers were as follows<sup>1</sup> :

| District Agricultural Officer. | Revenue taluk.                            |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (1)                            | (2)                                       |
| 1 Sattur .. ..                 | Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Aruppukottai.     |
| 2 Sivaganga .. ..              | Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Sivaganga.      |
| 3 Ramanathapuram ..            | Paramagudi, Ramanathapuram, Mudukulattur. |

Certification Schemes for M.C.U.1 and 2 Cotton were introduced for producing quality seeds during 1951. They are profitably working in this District. Iron ploughs like Cooper 11,25, PSG 10,16, etc., were sold in Agricultural Depots and improved implements like wet land, pudler, etc. were also distributed. Green manure seeds like Kolinji, Daincha, Pillipasara, and Sesbania were grown in plenty. Prosopis seeds were also introduced through the Agricultural Department.

During 1956-57 National Extension Service was introduced in Rajapalayam Block with one Extension Officer, one Fieldman and two Demonstration Maistries to attend to the agricultural activities of the Department. Then gradually all the other Depots were also merged with the Blocks one by one under various stages.

Under the National Extension Service, Gramasevaks and Extension Workers were appointed. The goal of agricultural extension was the maximum economic exploitation of our agricultural resources in land and labour ; but actually it was found that these are not put to their maximum use. As a result, the level of production was

1. G.O. Ms. No. 1562, Food and Agriculture Department, dated 13th June 1964.

low and agricultural labour was out of employment during off-season. Another disquieting feature was the gradual decline in the yield of crops, while the cropped area has been more or less stationary and the population was mounting up.

The immediate problem of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker is therefore, to arrest the decline and improve the yield of crops. Crop production depends upon the level of application of nitrogenous manure to the field as the nitrogen in the soil gets depleted under tropical conditions. The total requirements of the major crops in the District at the existing level of production of nitrogen was available in the shape of farm-yard manure, oil cakes, green manure, green leaf compost, ammonium sulphate, etc.

Trials and demonstrations were conducted in the villages to propagate the improved method of agriculture. The foremost duty of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker was to bring home to the cultivators the advantages of using these improved methods. This was done after such demonstrations in the cultivators' fields. Though improved strains have been evolved in respect of most crops, the benefit from these have not reached all cultivators. With the systematic work, it was not found difficult for any Gramasevak or Extension Worker to extend the improved seeds to every acre and every crop in his jurisdiction in the course of even two seasons.

The following is the details when the Agricultural Depots were converted into Development Blocks :—

| (1)         | (2)                      | (3)  |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| Stage I ..  | From 1st October 1956 .. | (i) Kariapattl.<br>(ii) Virudhunagar.                  |
| Stage I ..  | From 1st April 1957 ..   | (i) Sattur.  |
| Stage I ..  | From 1st October 1957 .. | (i) Mudukulattur.<br>(ii) Kadaladi.                    |
| Stage II .. | From 1st April 1959 ..   | (i) Srivilliputtur.<br>(ii) Watrap.<br>(iii) Sivakasi. |
| Stage II .. | From 1st April 1960 ..   | (i) Rajapalayam.                                       |
| Stage I ..  | From 1st October 1960 .. | (i) Vembakkottai.<br>(ii) Narikkudi.]                  |
| Stage I ..  | From 1st April 1961 ..   | (i) Aruppukkottai.                                     |
| Stage II .. | From 1st April 1962 ..   | (i) Kamudi.  |

The Scheme of granting Intensive Manuring Scheme Loans to cultivators was handed over to the Revenue Department from the Fasli Year 1364 (1954-55).

Assistant Cotton Specialist, Srivilliputtur was in-charge of the long staple. Cotton scheme zonal nucleus farm was also functioning at Srivilliputtur for the production of oil seeds.

Madras State was getting ready to embark on a new programme of Development of Panchayat Administration. The statutory basis required for this programme has been provided in a Bill which was passed by the State Legislature and the New Madras Panchayat Act, 1958 became law. The administrative machinery for implementing the Act was set up. The statutory rules envisaged in the Act were made. The District Development Council was constituted as statutory organ of consultation and co-ordination, replacing the then existing non-statutory District Planning Boards and a number of other adhoc non-statutory consultative bodies.

Therefore a three-year programme of phased introduction of the new Madras Panchayat Act will be drawn up for every Development District in consultation with New Development Council of that District. Already there was a provisional delimitation of the entire rural area of the State into Development Blocks, for purposes of operation of the National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development. These Blocks were grouped in three batches. The new Act was introduced in each batch of blocks during the years 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62.

Upon the introduction of the new Act in each Development Block, each became a Panchayat Development Block under the New Act with the new set up of Panchayat Administration installed therein. Thereupon, the old Panchayats Act and the District Board Act which formed the statutory basis, ceased to be in force in that block area. Thus the change-over was completed in 3 years. During the first year of the Third Five-Year Plan period, the new set up of Panchayat Organisation was in existence throughout this District as indicated below :

|                                   |                  |                                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Batch of Panchayat Unions.  | 2nd October 1960 | .. (Seven Panchayat Unions).   |
| Second Batch of Panchayat Unions. | 14th April 1961  | .. (Sixteen Panchayat Unions). |
| Third Batch of Panchayat Unions.  | 2nd October 1961 | .. (Nine Panchayat Unions)     |

Programmes for Agricultural Development were given the central place in the First-Year Plan. Agriculture and Community Development, along with irrigation and power, occupied the major portion of the total out lay of the Plan Schemes. Although this priority was accorded in the special circumstances of shortage and inflation which existed when the plan schemes were formulated, it has justified itself from the general stand point of economic development. The increase in agricultural production which has taken place since 1952-53 has helped, more than any other factor, to end inflation, stabilise the economy and prepare the way for a higher rate of development during the Second Five-Year Plan.

The satisfactory results attained in the agricultural section during the First Plan suggest a change in the perspective for agricultural development for the Second Five-Year Plan. The aim

then was to diversify agricultural production, to put land to the best possible uses and to take all such measures as will increase the productivity of land and the yield of individual crops. As irrigation and improved agricultural practices developed especially in areas served by National Extension and Community Projects, aspects of land utilisation which were neglected in the past such as horticulture, soil conservation, village plantations, etc., received sustained attention.

For crops such as sugarcane, cotton and groundnut a number of special measures were proposed to be undertaken. Intensive Sugarcane Development Schemes were extended to non-sugar factory areas. The main features of these schemes were development of irrigation, intensive manuring and organisation of co-operatives for making credit and production. In cotton, efforts were concentrated on increasing the area and production of long staple varieties. As large areas suitable for the production of long staple cotton became available in the District benefiting from a number of multipurpose irrigation projects, cotton production considerably stepped up.

One of the more important aims in the agricultural sector during the Second Plan was to increase the production of fruit and vegetables. This is necessary both for increasing the supply of protective foods and for bringing about greater diversity in the pattern of agriculture in the Five-Year Plan Schemes. Long-term loans to farmers for bringing new land under orchards and also short-term loans for rejuvenating existing orders were granted to growers to encourage Horticultural Development Scheme.

The agricultural plans prepared by the Panchayats largely dealt with items which can be utilised for mass approach, and too much reliance should not be placed on the flow of extraneous supplies but on self-help and self-reliance so that every farming family in the village regardless of its economic status, can participate in the campaign, which would concentrate on a few specific and fundamental items of wide application and capable of creating mass enthusiasm. The important matters which lend themselves to mass approach essentially through self-help are :—

(i) Multiplication of improved seeds in each village and their distribution within the village by exchange or otherwise which is being called now as Gramasahayak Scheme. The same principle of self-help should apply to seeds of new crops and green manures introduced in the village.

(ii) The production of manure required for each field within its own borders, without affecting the normal cropping pattern are being organised as a mass campaign to improve the soil fertility.

(iii) Better agronomic practices like proper spacing, weeding, timely attention to various operations, and simple treatment of seed-borne diseases were adopted.

(iv) Better cropping patterns including double and triple cropping in irrigated areas introduction and extension of crops like groundnut, castor, sugarcane, cotton, cashewnut and coconut were also adopted.

No Research Stations are located in the Sattur Division. There are two State Seed Farms at Devadanam and Pullur with an area of 52.07 and 48.87 acres respectively. The farm was requisitioned on 14th December 1958 while the later was taken over on lease on 15th September 1958. Each farm is managed by one Farm Manager assisted by one Fieldman and one Demonstration Maistry.

The engineering activities of the Department also increased to attend to the needs of ryots by way of supply of agricultural implements and machinery, pump sets, tractors, bull-dozers, well sinking appliances, etc. Two Agricultural Engineering Supervisors were posted in the District and they were attached to the Office of the District Agricultural Officer. Necessary operating staffs were also appointed such as Tractor Drivers, Oil Engine Drivers, Mechanics, Foremen etc. Tractor ploughing, hiring of oil engines and pump-sets, sinking of borewells, supply of tractors to ryots under hire purchase scheme, supply of oil engines under Filterpoint Scheme, and River Pumping Scheme were undertaken in large scale. To cope up with the increased work in the engineering activities, the Engineering Department was separated from the District Agricultural Officer and was placed under an Agricultural Engineer with effect from October 1959.

*Cashew Development Scheme:*—The cultivation of cashew plantation was felt very much in this District. For the development of cashewnut cultivation, cashew nurseries were raised for production and distribution of seeds, seedlings and air layers. Financial assistance to the prospective cashew growers for preparation of lands, purchase of seednuts, etc. in the form of long-term loans at the rate of Rs. 80 per acre and provision of free technical guidance on all aspects of cashew growing such as preparation of land, planting, manuring, etc. and also in the utilisation of cashew apple to prepare fruit products, etc. are some of the measures undertaken to step up the production of cashew and also to improve the economic condition of the inhabitants of the Ramanathapuram District. A scheme for development of cashew plantation under the control of a Cashew Development Officer with headquarters at Sivaganga has been functioning.

*Oilseeds Development Scheme:*—Under the Integrated Oilseeds Development Scheme for saturation of area under groundnut with improved seeds aiming a coverage of 10 per cent of the total area under groundnut each year, one Oilseed Development Assistant at Sattur, one Castor Development Assistant at Rajapalayam and one

Oilseeds Development Assistant at Watrap are now working in this Division under the administrative control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sattur.

**Horticultural Development Scheme:**—There are two kinds of loans under Horticultural Development Scheme. One is long-term loan and the other is short-term loan. The object of issuing long-term loan is to establish new orchards. The loan is issued at the rate of Rs.300 per acre upto a maximum of Rs. 2,000 per individual. 50 per cent of the loan amount is given to the loanee in cash initially for making preliminary arrangements to establish the orchards. Fruit seedlings are supplied to the parties from the Government nurseries for the remaining 50 per cent of the loan amount. The repayment of loan commences from the 6th year of disbursement of loan in 10 equal annual instalments with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest.

The short-term loan is given for rejuvenation of vegetated old orchards at the rate of Rs. 65 per acre upto a maximum of Rs. 500 per individual. The loan amount is only given in kind either in the shape of chemical fertilisers or plant protection materials. The repayment has to be made in one single instalment in the next year itself with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest.

**Sivaganga Division:**—The Ramanathapuram Revenue District was bifurcated into Ramanathapuram East with headquarters at Sivaganga and west with headquarters at Sattur with effect from 16th November 1957. The Ramanathapuram Revenue District has been divided into 3 divisions with headquarters at Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Sattur. Sivaganga Division comprises of three revenue taluks (viz) Sivaganga, Tiruppattur and Tiruvadanai with the following Panchayat Unions under the overall control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sivaganga.

| <i>Name of Revenue Taluk.</i> |    | <i>Name of the Panchayat Union.</i> |                       |                  |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| (1)                           |    | (2)                                 | (3)                   |                  |
| 1 Sivaganga ..                | .. | 1. Manamadurai,<br>4. Kalayarkoil.  | 2. Tiruppuvanam,      | 3. Sivaganga and |
| 2 Tiruppattur ..              | .. | 1. Tiruppattur,<br>4. Sakkottai.    | 2. Singampuneri,      | 3. Kallal and    |
| 3 Tiruvadanai ..              | .. | 1. Tiruvadanai,<br>4. Kannangudi.   | 2. Rajasingamangalam, | 3. Devakottai    |

The following important strains are distributed in this District through departmental propaganda :—

| <i>Strain.</i> | <i>Name of Variety.</i>   |
|----------------|---|
| (1)            | (2)   |
| 1 Paddy ..     | Co. 13, GEB. 24, ASD. 4, BAM. 3, Co. 25, ASD. 1, Co. 1.<br>Co. 29, SR. 26B. |
| 2 Ragi ..      | K2 and Co. 7.   |
| 3 Chulam ..    | K1, Co. 9 and K2.   |
| 4 Cumbu ..     | K1, Co. 3 and X3.   |
| 5 Cotton ..    | MCU. 1, MCU. 2 and K6.  |
| 6 Groundnut .. | TMV. 1, TMV. 2 and TMV. 3.  |



**Horticultural Development Scheme:**—The laterite red-soils of Sivaganga, Tiruppattur and Tiruvadanai taluks are suitable for raising orchards in this District in places where irrigation facilities are available. To popularise this scheme, this department is giving loans to the ryots at Rs. 300 per acre under long-term and Rs. 65 per acre under short-term loans. Improved varieties of seedlings and grafts are being supplied from the Government nurseries. Besides this, fruit plants and seeds are also being distributed at half cost to the needy ryots through the Blocks. A Horticultural Development Assistant is specially posted under this scheme with his headquarters at Sattur.

**Cashew Development Scheme:**—There is much scope in this District to raise cashew plantations. This Department is giving loans to ryots at the rate of Rs. 80 per acre under long-term basis to popularise the raising of cashew plantations. There is a separate Special District Agricultural Officer at Sivaganga for this Scheme. Cashew is being raised both by individuals as well as by Panchayats. The Scheme is getting popular.

**Coconut Development Scheme:**—The coastal areas of Ramanathapuram Taluk and *Vaigai* river beds are eminently suitable for raising coconut plantations. To increase the production of coconuts in coastal areas of the Ramanathapuram Taluk, a special officer styled as special Deputy Director of Agriculture (Coconut Development) is posted with his headquarters at Ramanathapuram. The comprehensive coconut nursery scheme aims at the settlement of landless poor and Ceylon repatriates who are to raise coconuts in 5 acre blocks.

There is a coconut nursery at Singampuneri under the control of the District Agricultural Officer, Sivaganga. Steps are being taken to organise a coconut nursery at Tiruppuvanam Block also.

**Cotton Development Scheme:**—Under this scheme the cultivation of cotton in the District is being intensified. All steps are being taken to improve the cultivation of cotton. A special Cotton Development Assistant is working under this scheme with his headquarters at Sivaganga. Irrigated cotton in summer with the use of MCU. 2. variety is getting popular due to departmental efforts.

**Plant Protection Scheme:**—All steps are being taken to protect the crops from the pests and diseases. Pesticides and fungicides, sprayers and dusters are being distributed to the ryots at concessional rates. Plant protection equipments are also given for hire to the needy ryots. Equipments are also kept at Panchayats. The Groundnut Hairy Caterpillar Campaign in this District has been very successful for these 3 years and large areas of groundnuts

have been saved from the pest damage. Plant Protection Assistants and Demonstration Maistries have been appointed in each of the 3 divisions to give special attention to Plant Protection Work.

*Application of Fertilisers*:—Good yield is obtained by application of fertilisers. Wide propaganda is being made for the application of fertilisers to all the crops. Short term loans are being given to the ryots under Intensive Manuring Scheme for the purchase of fertilisers. The application of fertilisers to the millets is not at all practised so far in this District. But Intensive Cultivation Programme has been newly introduced during the year 1964. Fertilisers will be applied to the millets under this new programme. Fertiliser demonstrations are being conducted in this District to popularise the application of fertilisers to all the crops.

Rural and urban compost is being prepared in the villages and town panchayats respectively. To encourage the production of compost, subsidy is being given by this Department through the Panchayat Unions, to the individuals as well as to the Panchayats.

The Department also runs the following three State Seed Farms :—

*State Seed Farm, Devakottai*:—This farm was started on 1st April 1959 at Udayachi, Devakottai. The total area of the farm (1955) was 252.41 acres according to the survey. The additional virgin lands were brought under cultivation for the first time after heavily manuring with the urban compost and after farming contour bunds to preserve moisture. The entire farm is divided into 5 acre blocks with main cross roads.

Borewells have been sunk successfully. One has been commissioned with submersible pump and arrangements are under progress to commission to the two remaining borewells with submersible pumps. When this work is completed it is expected that the 3 borewells will help to bring an area of 50 acres under irrigated crops, a feature which is uncommon in these dry areas. Groundnut and millets are being cultivated in this farm as also irrigated paddy in limited areas.

*State Seed Farm—Karaikkudi*:—This farm was started on 12th February 1962. The area of the farm is about 40 acres. This forest poramboke lands have been handed over by the Forest Department to the Agricultural Department.

*State Seed Farm—Paramagudi*:—The Agricultural Research Station, Paramagudi was converted into a State Seed Farm with effect from 1st May 1962. The total area of the farm is about 25 acres. A well is constructed by the Public Works Department for irrigation facilities. Improved varieties of vegetables are cultivated in this farm for seed multiplication. Paddy, ragi, groundnut

etc., are being cultivated in this farm. The farm is under the control of the District Agricultural Officer, Ramanathapuram with effect from 24th June 1964.

Besides the State Seed Farms, the department also runs one Agricultural School at Paramagudi. This school was started on 20th July 1961 to cater the needs of Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts. Every year, twenty students are to be admitted and given intensive training for a period of one academic year, by the Agricultural Instructor. A sum of Rs. 40 per month (35 for meals and 5 for pocket expenses) is being given to each student as stipend.

*Agricultural Engineering:*—There is one separate Assistant Agricultural Engineer at Sivaganga. He is incharge of Agricultural Engineering activities for Ramanathapuram Revenue District. He is distributing oil engines, electric motor pumpsets and tractors under hire purchase scheme to the needy ryots. He is also giving tractors and bulldozers under hiring scheme for ploughing and levelling.

(c) *Animal Husbandry Department:*—The office of the District Veterinary Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai is functioning from the year 1942. This is one of the unbifurcated District in the Madras State having jurisdiction all over the Ramanathapuram District which comprises 9 Revenue Taluks divided into 32 Panchayat Union Blocks.

There are two veterinary hospitals, one at Rajapalayam and the other at Sivaganga, each employing a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and one Live Stock Assistant. The District Veterinary Officer has the following staff working under him :—

*Field Staff—*

|                              |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Veterinary Assistant Surgeon | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 |
| Livestock Assistant—Grade II | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Supervisors                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9  |
| Veterinary Compounders       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3  |
| Attender                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  |
| Poultry Maistry              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  |

*Mobile unit :—*

|                     |    |    |    |    |   |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| Livestock Assistant | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|---|

There are 13 veterinary dispensaries and 8 minor veterinary dispensaries situated in this District. The veterinary dispensary and minor veterinary dispensary are under the direct control of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon who is assisted by one Livestock Assistant and other contingent staff. For the whole District there is only one Touring Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Nalli in the Srivilliputtur Taluk.

There are 5 Poultry Extension Centres under the control of the District Veterinary Officer. They are at (1) Anuppangulam, (2) Peraiyur, (3) Amaravathiputhur, (4) Palayampatti and (5) Surakulam. The Poultry Extension Centres at Anuppankulam and

Peraiyur have got each a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon with one Fieldman. The remaining three Poultry Extension Centres have got one Livestock Assistant. There is also one Poultry Production Centre at Nalli under the charge of a Livestock Assistant assisted by a Maistry.

One Sheep Demonstration Unit is functioning at Virudhunagar. A Veterinary Assistant Surgeon is in-charge Sheep Demonstration Unit. There is one Clinical Laboratory at Sivaganga. The artificial insemination centres are working at Virudhunagar and Sivaganga. The Veterinary Surgeon in-charge of the Veterinary Dispensary at Virudhunagar and Veterinary Hospital at Sivaganga are supervising the above centres. Two Livestock Assistants for each centre are working in the above centres. There are eight Key Village Extension Centres each in charge of a Supervisor. The Supervisor is assisted by two Livestock Assistants. The centres are located at the following places.

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rajasingamangalam. | 5. Sattur.         |
| 2. Tiruvadanai.       | 6. Sivakasi        |
| 3. Paramagudi.        | 7. Kanniseripudur. |
| 4. Nainarkoil.        | 8. Srivilliputtur. |

Besides the Key Village Extension Centres, there are First Aid Centres at Mangaseri, Kunnur and Kakkivadampatti.

The District is famous for Ramanathapuram "Kuruvai" rams which are used for breeding and improvement of local breeds in the District. 694 "Kuruvai" rams were distributed during the year 1963-64. The large number of sheep in this District are reared mainly for mutton and manure purposes. Livestock trade is generally held in this District in weekly shandies held regularly at Sivaganga, Paramagudi, Ilaythagudi, Devakottai, Singampunari, Ramanathapuram, Tiruppuvanam, Manamadurai and Rajapalayam where local cattle and cattle from the neighbouring districts are brought for sale. At Kanniseripudur in the Sattur Taluk a big annual cattle fair is held and usually about 50,000 cattle are brought for sale.

There is a District Livestock Farm in this District functioning at Chettinad, in charge of a Superintendent of the rank of the Gazetted Officer. A Stockmen Course is also conducted in this Farm from 1st August 1963. State Live Stock Research Station is also functioning within this Farm from 24th July 1963. To begin with, it started with the Animal Nutrition Section. The Farm affords visual demonstration on various aspects of cattle management, land reclamation, crop husbandry, contour bunding and training in poultry husbandry. One Research Scheme is functioning in this Farm to produce Asil birds of various varieties for research of the Asil breeds. There are 1,457 different classes of cattle in this Farm like Kangayam, Tharparkar, Murrah, Haryana, Sindhi, Pulikulam, etc.

(d) *Forest Department*:—Ramanathapuram District comprises 199·681 square miles of forest area which can be classified as below :

- (1) Class I—Reserve Forest—71·551 square miles.
- (2) Class III Panchayats—0·860 square miles.
- (3) Ex-Zamin Forest and reserved land—127·270 square miles.

Ramanathapuram division was constituted on 5th February 1957 with jurisdiction over the forests in the entire revenue district of Ramanathapuram and with its headquarters at Karaikkudi. It consists of 5 ranges at Srivilliputtur, Tirupattur, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Karaikkudi. Prior to 5th February 1957 there were only two ranges in the Ramanathapuram District, viz., Srivilliputtur range and Sivaganga range. The forest in Srivilliputtur range was under the control of old Tirunelveli division and the forest in Sivaganga range comprising the forests in Sivaganga, Tiruvadanai, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi taluks were under the control of the District Forest Officer, Madurai South Division. Besides the five ranges, there are two special ranges with headquarters at Nattarasankottai and Karaikkudi respectively for raising farm forestry in the Ramanathapuram District.

In East Ramanathapuram Development District, there are only ex-estate forests which have been taken over under the Zamin Abolition Act in the year 1948. The ex-estate forest consists of only scrub jungle fit for plantation. Srivilliputtur range, which comprises of Western Ghats, contains natural forests. In this range Shola forest (evergreen forest) exists in high altitudes at 3,000 feet above sea-level. Teak-wood and other hard woods grow in lower altitudes. Sandal wood grows at an elevation of about 500 to 3,500 feet. Sandal wood occurs in Alagarkoil valley of Srivilliputtur range and they are worked on a three year rotation. There are no bamboos in this District worth mentioning.

The Ramanathapuram District is mainly a plantation division. Cashew has been grown in the following taluks :

|                        | (1)     | (2)         |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|
|                        | TALUKS. | ACRES.      |
| Sivaganga .. .. .      | .. .. . | 2,701       |
| Tirupattur .. .. .     | .. .. . | 4,089       |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. . | .. .. . | 125         |
| Mudukulattur .. .. .   | .. .. . | 248         |
|                        |         | <hr/> 7,163 |

Casuarina has been grown in 1,809 acres in the Rameswaram Island. Eucalyptus has been planted in the following taluks :—

|                        | (1)     | (2)    |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
|                        | TALUKS. | ACRES. |
| Tirupattur .. .. .     | .. .. . | 105    |
| Sivaganga .. .. .      | .. .. . | 85     |
| Srivilliputtur .. .. . | .. .. . | 36     |
| Ramanathapuram .. .. . | .. .. . | 25     |

Match wood plantation has been raised on 510 acres in the Srivilliputtur Taluk and teak-wood on 1,552 acres in the same taluk. Farm forestry has been raised on 1,527 acres all over the District in the village lands like tank-beds.

Wild game like chital, tiger, elephant, sambar, wild pigs, ibex, spotted deer and four horned antelope exist in the Srivilliputtur range. In the Karaikkudi range spotted deer are available.

The revenue realised during the year 1963-64 is Rs. 4,17,194.21 and the expenditure incurred is Rs. 4,96,974.89. The expenditure is more than the revenue because large scale plantation works have been taken up in this District with a view to improve the forest which are mostly scrub jungle now.

(e) *Industries Department*:—The Industries Department was already functioning with one Supervisor of Industries for each district. In this District one Supervisor of Industries, one Peon, and Boring Inspectors were working with headquarters at Ramana-thapuram to supervise the working of the pumps installed under the Rural Water Supply Scheme. During 1943 the headquarters of the Supervisor was transferred to Madurai. Later on in the year 1955, the headquarters was transferred to Sivaganga. A Lower Division Clerk was also sanctioned to work under the Supervisor. Then the post of Supervisor of Industries was converted and up-graded as that of an Assistant Director (Gazetted) with an enlarged staff.

Subsequently the strength of the staff was increased with headquarters at Madurai. The Rural Water-Supply Scheme was handed over to the Agricultural Department and the supervisory staff connected with the scheme were also transferred to that Department.

The activities of the Department increased and gained importance when industrialisation of the nation was the chief objective of the Second Five-Year Plan. One Village Industries Officer (Gazetted) was also appointed in this District in 1957 to promote the growth of the village and cottage industries with the following staff :—

Cottage Industries Inspectors—Two.  
Upper Division Clerk—One.  
Lower Division Clerk—One.  
Peons—Two.

The Village Industries Officer was solely in charge of starting of and improvement of cottage, village and handicrafts schemes. The Assistant Director who is a technically qualified officer deals with the technical subjects relating to preparation of new schemes for Small Scale Units, Industrial Colonies, Estates and other Small Scale Industries. During the year 1961, the Village Industries Officer was transferred to Khadi and Village Industries Board and in his place a Cottage Industries Officer was appointed in this Department to

promote the Cottage and Handicrafts Schemes. He was in charge of both the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts with headquarters at Madurai.

The main duties of the Assistant Director are to help the Industrialists to secure controlled commodities like coal, coke, etc. and to organise Industrial Co-operatives and thereby accelerated the development of industry. He is also responsible for administering the State Aid to Industries Act and Industries Development Regulation of 1951 and Registration of Small-Scale Industries.

Every half-year about 700 applications are received from industrialists and are recommended by the Assistant Director for issuing import licence and Essentiality Certificates besides applications for iron and steel, coal and coke and hire purchase applications.

The Assistant Director is assisted by two Inspectors of Industries, one State-Aid Inspector, one Industrial Co-operative Officer, Supervisor of Industrial Co-operatives (Supervision), and one Special Revenue Inspector (Loans) with headquarters at Sivakasi. During November 1962, this District was bifurcated with another headquarters at Sivaganga under the control of one Assistant Director and his staff. The jurisdiction of this District was divided into two on administrative grounds. One Industrial Estate at Sulakkarai, Virudhunagar and one Industrial Estate for Industrial Co-operatives at Sivakasi are functioning under the control of Administrative Officers separately. One Small Scale Industries Unit namely Tool Room Shop is functioning at the Industrial Estate, Virudhunagar under a Superintendent (Gazetted) who is assisted by technical and ministerial subordinates. Dies and other spare parts for machinery are manufactured in the Units.

One Small Match Producers' Co-operative Society is functioning at Sattur under the control of one Gazetted Business Manager. Further the Assistant Director is granting loan upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000 to the private individual industrialists under the State-Aid to Industries Act, 1922. He is also granting loans to the rehabilitated goldsmiths upto Rs. 2,000 under the recent Gold Control Order.

(f) *Co-operative Department*:—Till 1st April 1942 a common Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies at Madurai, attended to the organisation, supervision of co-operative institutions and auditing of the accounts of those institutions in both the Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts. On the first April 1942, the office was bifurcated and a separate Deputy Registrar's Office was formed for the development and supervision of co-operative institutions in the Ramanathapuram District with headquarters at Madurai. This new office was started with one Deputy Registrar, one Co-operative Sub-Registrar, one Senior Inspectors, 3 Junior

Inspectors 4 clerks and 3 peons. Consequent on the formation of several types of Co-operative Societies in the District, the strength was increased to 95 as on 30th June 1948 as given below :—

| (1)                            |    |    |    |    |    | (2) |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. Deputy Registrar            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| 2. Co-operative Sub-Registrars | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4   |
| 3. Senior Inspectors           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47  |
| 4. Junior Inspectors           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22  |
| 5. Routine Clerks and Typist   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4   |
| 6. Peons                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17  |
| Total                          |    |    |    |    |    | 95  |

In the year 1955, the question of formation of an Additional Deputy Registrar's Office was considered consequent on the increase of work due to the organisation of several new co-operative institutions in the District. On 1st June 1955 a separate Deputy Registrar's Office was formed with headquarters at Sivaganga for the supervision of societies in Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi, Tiruvadanai, Tirupattur and Sivaganga taluks. The societies in the remaining four taluks of Mudukulattur, Sattur, Srivilliputtur and Aruppukkottai were placed under the supervision and administrative control of the Deputy Registrar, Ramanathapuram with headquarters at Madurai.

On 15th December 1958, as a result of the separation of the audit branch of the Department from the administration branch a separate Deputy Registrar was posted to work as District Co-operative Audit Officer for the Ramanathapuram district with headquarters at Madurai for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the co-operative institutions in the entire Ramanathapuram District. The staff sanctioned for Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga Deputy Registrar's Circle for audit purpose was transferred to work under the administrative control of the District Co-operative Audit Officer, Ramanathapuram, at Madurai with effect from 15th December 1958.

As a prelude to the introduction of Integrated Rural Credit under the Second Five-Year Plan, Government sanctioned a Pilot Scheme to be worked in the Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks and appointed a Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the headquarters at Srivilliputtur to implement the scheme. The object of the scheme was to develop the working of rural credit societies so as to cover all the villages of the two taluks to serve as many agriculturists as possible and to start large sized rural credit societies in suitable centres to provide credit of all kinds to their members and to develop the activities of marketing societies so as to be of real benefit to the agriculturists through the introduction of Controlled Credit Scheme, provision of storage processing and marketing facilities by providing godowns, etc.,



In the first instance, the office of the Special Deputy Registrar (Credit and Marketing) was started in the year 1956 at Srivilliputtur to implement the above scheme with the following establishments:—

|                                 | (1)     | (2) |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----|
| 1. Deputy Registrar .. .. .     | .. .. . | 1   |
| 2. Senior Inspector .. .. .     | .. .. . | 1   |
| 3. Lower Division Clerk .. .. . | .. .. . | 1   |
| 4. Steno typist .. .. .         | .. .. . | 1   |
| 5. Peons .. .. .                | .. .. . | 2   |
| Total ..                        | ..      | 6   |

At the outset, the pilot area was limited to Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks. The chief work undertaken by the pilot Deputy Registrar was (a) reorganisation of rural credit societies, (b) formation of large sized societies and (c) development of marketing societies in Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks.

Then the Pilot Scheme undertaken by this office was gradually extended to all the other taluks in the Ramanathapuram District.

The following statement gives the names and number of Societies in the Ramanathapuram District as on 30th June 1964:—

| Type of society.                           | Ramanathapuram. | Sivaganga. | Srivilliputtur. | Total. |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--------|
| (1)  | (2)             | (3)        | (4)             | (5)    |
| 1. Central banks .. .. .                   | .. .. .         | 1          | ..              | 1      |
| 2. Village credit societies .. .. .        | 240             | 270        | 334             | 844    |
| 3. Agricultural banks .. .. .              | 5               | 1          | 14              | 20     |
| 4. Rural banks .. .. .                     | .. .. .         | 1          | 1               | 2      |
| 5. Credit unions .. .. .                   | .. .. .         | 24         | 9               | 38     |
| 6. Adjuncts to credit unions .. .. .       | 18              | 94         | 40              | 152    |
| 7. Primary land mortgage banks .. .. .     | 2               | 2          | 3               | 7      |
| 8. Urban banks .. .. .                     | 6               | 4          | 8               | 18     |
| 9. Employees credit society .. .. .        | 13              | 16         | 27              | 56     |
| 10. Urban credit society .. .. .           | 2               | 4          | 2               | 3      |
| 11. Stores societies .. .. .               | 10              | 22         | 28              | 60     |
| 12. Primary house mortgage banks.          | 1               | 2          | 2               | 5      |
| 13. Students, Stores .. .. .               | 10              | 14         | 6               | 30     |
| 14. Joint farming societies .. .. .        | 1               | 1          | 13              | 15     |
| 15. Tenant farming societies .. .. .       | 1               | ..         | 4               | 5      |
| 16. Land colonisation societies .. .. .    | ..              | ..         | 3               | 3      |
| 17. Agricultural improvement societies.    | ..              | ..         | 12              | 12     |
| 18. Better farming societies .. .. .       | ..              | ..         | 1               | 1      |
| 19. Rural housing societies .. .. .        | 5               | 6          | 13              | 24     |
| 20. Urban housing societies .. .. .        | 4               | 6          | 9               | 19     |
| 21. Industrial housing societies .. .. .   | ..              | ..         | 3               | 3      |
| 22. Labour contract societies .. .. .      | 3               | 3          | 5               | 11     |
| 23. Wholesale stores .. .. .               | ..              | ..         | 2               | 2      |
| 24. District supply and marketing society. | 1               | ..         | ..              | 1      |

| <i>Type of society.</i>              | <i>Ramanatha-<br/>puram.</i> | <i>Siva-<br/>ganga.</i> | <i>Srivilli-<br/>puttur.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| (1)                                  | (2)                          | (3)                     | (4)                          | (5)           |
| 25. Primary marketing societies ..   | 3                            | 3                       | 6                            | 12            |
| 26. Spinning mills .. ..             | ..                           | ..                      | 1                            | 1             |
| 27. Milk supply societies ..         | 28                           | ..                      | 85                           | 113           |
| 28. Sugarcane growers societies ..   | ..                           | ..                      | 1                            | 1             |
| 29. Cattle breeding societies ..     | ..                           | ..                      | 1                            | 1             |
| 30. Weavers' societies .. ..         | 18                           | 7                       | 56                           | 81            |
| 31. Industrial weavers' societies .. | 1                            | 1                       | 3                            | 5             |
| 32. Supervising unions .. ..         | 3                            | 3                       | 4                            | 10            |
| 33. Printing press .. ..             | ..                           | 1                       | ..                           | 1             |
| 34. District washermen societies ..  | ..                           | 1                       | ..                           | 1             |
| 35. Other types of societies ..      | 1                            | 1                       | 2                            | 4             |
| Total ..                             | 281                          | 488                     | 698                          | 1467          |

The strength of the staff as on 30th June 1964 was as detailed below :—

| <i>Category.</i>                              | <i>Administration Staff.</i> |                         |                              |               | <i>Audit<br/>Staff.</i> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
|   | <i>Ramanatha-<br/>puram.</i> | <i>Siva-<br/>ganga.</i> | <i>Srivilli-<br/>puttur.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |                         |
| (1)   | (2)                          | (3)                     | (4)                          | (5)           | (6)                     |
| 1. Deputy Registrar.                          | 1                            | 1                       | 1                            | 3             | 1                       |
| 2. Co-operative Sub-<br>Registrars.           | 3                            | 3                       | 5                            | 11            | 2                       |
| 3. Senior Inspectors.                         | 8                            | 10                      | 23                           | 41            | 61                      |
| 4. Junior Inspectors.                         | 6                            | 6                       | 5                            | 17            | 29                      |
| 5. Computers ..                               | 1                            | 1                       | ..                           | 2             | ..                      |
| 6. Ministerial staff ..                       | 2                            | 3                       | 2                            | 7             | ..                      |
| 7. Public Works<br>Department<br>Supervisors. | ..                           | ..                      | 1                            | 1             | ..                      |

With effect from 2nd October 1963 a separate Deputy Registrar with headquarters at Madurai was posted for the supervision of Milk Supply Co-operatives in Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts. The staff sanctioned for supervision of Milk Supply Societies for Deputy Registrar's Office, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Dindigul and Madurai were transferred to work under the Deputy Registrar (Milk Scheme), Madurai.

With all round increase of work, it was found necessary to integrate the various special posts and to unify the control and administration of the various co-operative institutions in the District. Consequently the Ramanathapuram District was trifurcated into three

circles on territorial basis among the Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Srivilliputtur, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram. The three new circles came into existence on 15th April 1964 with the following jurisdiction :

| (1)                         | (2)   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Ramanathapuram Circle ..    | Paramagudi, Mudukulattur and Ramanathapuram taluks. |
| Sivaganga Circle .. ..      | Tiruvadanai, Tiruppattur and Sivaganga taluks.      |
| Srivilliputtur Circle .. .. | Srivilliputtur, Sattur and Aruppukkottai taluks.    |

(g) *Registration Department*:—Ramanathapuram Revenue District is under the administration of the District Registrar, Ramanathapuram at Madurai and the District Registrar, Pudukkottai. There are 25 Sub-Registry Offices in the Ramanathapuram Revenue District besides the original Registration Branch of the Registrar's Office, Ramanathapuram at Madurai. These offices are under the administrative control of the District Registrar, Ramanathapuram at Madurai. There are nine Sub-Registrar's Offices in the registration district of the District Registrar, Pudukkottai. The following are the 26 Sub-Registrar Office under the control of the District Registrar, Ramanathapuram at Madurai :—

| (1)  | (2)  |
|--|--|
| Ramanathapuram Taluk .. .. .                                 | 1. Keelakkarai.<br>2. Ramanathapuram.<br>3. Rameswaram.  |
| Mudukulattur Taluk .. .. .                                   | 4. Abiramam.<br>5. Kamudi.<br>6. Mudukulattur.<br>7. Sayalkudi.  |
| Aruppukkottai Taluk .. .. .                                  | 8. Aruppukkottai.<br>9. Kariapatti.<br>10. Pandalgudi.<br>11. Tiruchuli.   |
| Paramagudi Taluk .. .. .                                     | 12. Bogalur.<br>13. Ilayangudi.<br>14. Paramagudi.   |
| Sivaganga Taluk .. .. .                                      | 15. Manamadurai.<br>16. Tiruppuvanam.  |
| Srivilliputtur Taluk .. .. .                                 | 17. Keelarakulam.<br>18. Kannur.<br>19. Rajapalayam.<br>20. Seithur.<br>21. Srivilliputtur.<br>22. Watrap.                   |
| Sattur Taluk .. .. .   | 23. Sattur.<br>24. Sivakasi.<br>25. Virudhunagar.  |
| Ramanathapuram Registration Office, Jurisdiction at Madurai. | 26. Pudumantapam consisting of the old 8th ward of Madurai Municipality and villages from Sivaganga Taluk and Madurai Taluk. |

The total number of documents registered during the year 1963-64 is 60,692 as against 68,244 in the previous year, thus recording a decrease of 11.07 per cent. The fall in the registration is mainly due to the insistence of the declaration under the Madras Land Ceiling Act, 1961.

The amount of surcharge duty collected under the various acts during the year and the previous year is as follows :—

|   | (1)   | (2)       |    | (3)       |    |
|---|-------|-----------|----|-----------|----|
|   |       | 1962-63.  |    | 1963-64.  |    |
|   |       | RS.       | P. | RS.       | P. |
| The Madras District Municipalities Act .. | ..    | 1,71,592  | 50 | 1,04,339  | 50 |
| The Madras Village Panchayat Act .. ..    | .. .. | 11,11,293 | 90 | 10,38,253 | 00 |

Out of the total surcharge duty collected, a sum of Rs. 36,087.78 was collected as charges for the work done by the department in the year 1963-64 as against Rs. 37,486.59 in the previous year. The number of general searches conducted during 1963-64 was 7,796 as against 8,284 in the previous year, the decrease in number was due to the decreased activities of the Co-operative Societies in the year. The fees levied for the same in the year rose from Rs. 87,250.25 to Rs. 1,09,831.82 which is due to the enhancement of search fees effected from 1st November 1962.

The number of applications for single searches and copies granted were 6243 and 6010 in 1963-64 as against 6865 and 6327 in the previous year respectively.

The number of miscellaneous searches conducted and miscellaneous copies granted were 1,436 and 1,412 in the year 1963-64 as against 1,323 and 1,405 respectively in the previous year.

The number of general power of attorney and special powers of attorney attested during the year of report were 59 and 130 in 1963-64 as against 52 and 142 in the previous year. Number of attendance made, commissions issued and summons issued were 272, nil and 53 respectively in the year 1963-64 as against 284, nil and 38 respectively in the previous year.

The financial results are as below :—

| RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE. |    |    |    |    |    |               |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| Year.                     |    |    |    |    |    | Net receipts. |
| (1)                       |    |    |    |    |    | (2)           |
|                           |    |    |    |    |    | RS.           |
|                           |    |    |    |    |    | RS.           |
| 1962-63                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,46,875      |
| 1963-64                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,76,804      |
|                           |    |    |    |    |    | 3,18,165      |
|                           |    |    |    |    |    | 3,23,739      |

There is a rise in both receipts and expenditure.

There is a surplus income of Rs. 2,53,065 in the year 1963-64 as against Rs. 2,28,715 in the previous year.

The Registering Officers, in the District are also Registrars of Births and Deaths under Central Act VI of 1886. Some of them also attend to treasury transactions and act as honorary trustees of Pachaiyappa Charities, members of the Advisory Committee of the Medical Board and Members of the Advisory Committee of Local Government Hospital. They are also Rain Registering Officers at certain stations.

The following are the nine Officers in Pudukkottai Registration District :—

| (1)                       | (2)   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tiruppattur Taluk .. .. . | 1. Karaikkudi.<br>2. Singampunari.<br>3. Tiruppattur. |
| Tiruvadanai Taluk .. .. . | 4. Tiruvadanai.<br>5. Devakottai.<br>6. Tondi.        |
| Sivaganga Taluk .. .. .   | 7. Sivaganga.<br>8. Kalaiyarkoil.<br>9. Madagupatti.  |

The total number of documents registered during the year 1963-64 is 17,480. The amount of surcharge collected and distributed to the Panchayats and Municipalities during the year is 3,29,509.63 and 3,196,23.48 respectively. The statement for the nine Sub-Registrar's Office are given below :—

| (1)   | Number.<br>(2) | Fees.<br>(3) |    |
|---|----------------|--------------|----|
|   |                | RS.          | P. |
| General searches .. .. .                          | 2,600          | 35,368       | 90 |
| Single searches including miscellaneous searches. | 1,631          | 3,602        | 50 |
| Certified copies .. .. .                          | 1,603          | 9,881        | 50 |
| Special powers .. .. .                            | 108            | 108          | 00 |
| General powers .. .. .                            | 44             | 88           | 00 |
| Private attendance .. .. .                        | 32             | 695          | 00 |

The Sub-Registrars at Treasury Stations are often entrusted with treasury charge.

The two District Registrars exercise the powers of the Marriage Officer under a Special Marriages Act of 1954. They are also the Registrars for the registration of Cultural, Scientific and Charitable Societies.

(h) *Information and Publicity Department*:—The scheme of Integrated Field Publicity Programme was extended to the Ramanathapuram district from 7th June 1964 with Madurai as headquarters. The District Publicity Officer, Ramanathapuram, is in charge of the unit from that date. He is under the administrative control of the Director of Information and Publicity but works in close co-operation with the Collector. He is responsible for publishing the activities of the Government and Five-Year Plan Scheme by means of cinema shows, dramas, by distribution of pamphlets, delivering and arranging lectures, etc. He has under his control a propaganda van fitted with audio-visual equipment.

(i) *National Malaria Eradication Programme*:—The nine taluks of the Ramanathapuram District are under the jurisdiction of three Unit Officers. The organisation of the National Malaria Eradication Programme in the Ramanathapuram District is as follows :—

| <i>Name of taluk.</i> | <i>Name of Unit Officer.</i>                          | <i>Name of Supervisory Officer.</i>                                  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| (1)                   | (2)   | (3)  |
| 1. Sattur .. ..       | Unit Officer at Aruppukottai.                         | Sub-Zonal Officer designated as Supervisory Unit Officer, Sivaganga. |
| 2. Aruppukkottai ..   | Do.   | Do.  |
| 3. Mudukulattur ..    | Do.   | Do.  |
| 4. Tiruppattur ..     | Unit Officer at Sivaganga.                            | Do.  |
| 5. Tiruvadanai ..     | Do.   | Do.  |
| 6. Sivaganga .. ..    | Do.   | Do.  |
| 7. Paramagudi ..      | Do.   | Do.  |
| 8. Ramanathapuram.    | Do.   | Do.  |
| 9. Srivilliputtur ..  | Unit Officer at Tirumangalam in the Madurai District. | Supervisory unit Officer at Madurai.                                 |

The Unit Officer at Aruppukkottai has jurisdiction over the Kovilpatti Taluk in the Tirunelveli District in addition to his jurisdiction over the three taluks of Sattur, Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur in the Ramanathapuram district. The Unit Officer at Tirumangalam in the Madurai district has jurisdiction over the Srivilliputtur Taluk also besides other taluks in the Madurai district.

*Aruppukkottai Unit Office*:—The Aruppukkottai Unit is in-charge of a Unit Officer with headquarters at Aruppukkottai under the supervisory jurisdiction of the Sub Zonal Officer, National Malaria Eradication Programme, Sivaganga. In this unit of the Ramanathapuram District there are five Sub Unit Officers. Four of them are having their headquarters at Sivakasi and at Aruppukkottai. One Sub-Unit Officer is at Mudukulattur.

National Malaria Eradication Programme commenced in Aruppukkottai Unit from May 1959 with the implementation of the attack phase. In 1960, the surveillance phase was concurrently implemented. Under the attack phase during the years 1959 to 1961, spray with D.D.T. on all human dwellings and cattle sheds with an intention to intercept transmission of malaria was carried out on a total coverage basis. D.D.T. spray was continued in limited problem areas in the Mudukulattur Taluk alone during 1962 and was withdrawn in other areas. Spraying was completely withdrawn since 1963 in all the taluks.

Surveillance operation came into existence concurrently with D.D.T. spraying from the year 1960. For supervision, the taluks have been divided into smaller areas called sub-circles, each with a average population of about 40,000. Each sub-circle with a staff of one Surveillance Inspector and four Surveillance Workers have been doing an intensive and individual house to house enquiry for fever cases, once in a fortnight. Persons with fever are investigated and their blood smears are taken and sent immediately to the Unit Laboratory at Aruppukkottai where special provision has been made for prompt microscopical examination to detect any positive malarial infection. Four laboratory technicians and four assistants are working in the Unit Laboratory at Aruppukkottai. Blood smears are also received from various voluntary agencies and medical institutions which are examined on a priority basis in the Unit Laboratory and the results communicated.

If any blood smear is found positive for malarial infection the patient is contacted immediately and radical treatment given for five days. Epidemiological investigation including observations, mass blood survey, spleen and parasite survey are done to ascertain any focus of infection and necessary remedial measures are promptly instituted.

Upon the withdrawal of D.D.T. spraying, the National Malaria Eradication Programme has entered into the phase of consolidation under which an intensive search is made for any possible introduction of positive malaria cases from outside the unit area, either from within the State or elsewhere. During 1964-65 the unit has entered into Malaria Eradication maintenance.

*Sivaganga Unit Office* :—Eight Sub-Unit Officers with headquarters at Tiruppattur, Devakottai, Sivaganga and Ramanthapuram, two in each are in-charge of sub-units. The Unit Officer National Malaria Eradication Programme who is in-charge of the Unit has headquarters at Sivaganga. This Unit at Sivaganga also comes under the jurisdiction of the Sub-Zonal Officer who is designated as Supervisory Unit Officer with headquarters at Sivaganga.

In this Unit too the Malaria Eradication Programme was started during 1959. The implementation of the programme was exactly similar to the pattern as adopted in Aruppukkottai Unit. The entire area was covered by D.D.T. spraying from 1959 to 1961. The spraying was continued in limited problem areas in Tirupattur, Devakottai and Ramanathapuram taluks during 1962 and was withdrawn in other areas. In 1963, spraying was continued in a limited area in the Ramanathapuram Taluk and was withdrawn completely from the other areas. All other phases of the programme were similar to those in Aruppukkottai Unit. Except Ramanathapuram sub-unit, the rest of the Unit has entered into the malaria eradication maintenance phase during 1964-65.

*Srivilliputtur Sub-Unit* :—Srivilliputtur Taluk is in-charge of two Sub-Unit Officers with the headquarters at Srivilliputtur. This sub-unit comes under the jurisdiction of Tirumangalam Unit, the headquarters of which is located at Thirumangalam. The National Malaria Eradication Programme has been patterned and carried out here on similar lines as in Aruppukkottai and Sivaganga units.

(j) *Khadi Department* :—The Madras State was the first to realise the potentiality of the *charkha* for providing gainful employment to the agriculturists. The introduction of the *charkha* in the villages involved no big capital outlay. It would help the peasant families to meet their own clothing needs through spinning. And so the Government of Madras took over from the then All India Spinners' Association four main production centres with 1,800 spinners and 500 weavers. The Government of Madras were the foremost and pioneer to take to the Khadi Programme as a rural development scheme. After 10 years of successful work, the State Government found it necessary in 1956 to create a separate department to develop Khadi as an essential rural industry. Khadi Department was run by the State Government till May 1960. From June 1960, Khadi Department is functioning as a statutory Board under the auspices of the Madras State Khadi and Village Industries Board.

In the Ramanathapuram District Khadi Scheme is in vogue from 1957. For administrative convenience the District has been divided into two centres as East and West with the headquarters at Paramagudi and Srivilliputtur respectively. Each centre is in charge of an officer designated as Centre Khadi Officer. On the whole 12 sales depots and 10 sub-centres are functioning in the District under the auspices of Madras State Khadi and Village Industries Board, carrying on the marketing of Khadi and production of yarn, cloth, etc.

Eight sales depots and four sub-centres are functioning under the control of the Centre Khadi Officer, Paramagudi. Sales depots are located at Sivaganga, Karaikkudi, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai, Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram and Mudukulattur and sub-centres at Kamudi, Sayalkudi, Kunrakkudi and Main Centre Production Section at Paramagudi.



Four sales depots are functioning under the control of the Centre Khadi Officer, Srivilliputtur at Virudhunagar, Aruppukkottai, Rajapalayam and Srivilliputtur and six sub-centres at Watrap, Aruppukkottai, Rengappanaickenpatti, Sattur, Rajapalayam and Main Centre Production Section, Srivilliputtur. The District Khadi Officer has the over all control and supervision in administrative matters. In sales depots, khadi sales transaction is carried on. In sub-centres, production of kisan and ambar hanks and khadi production are being carried out.

There is one District Village Industries Officer for the District. He is assisted by a Co-operative Sub-Registrar, a Cottage Industries Inspector, an Extension Officer (Industries) and also Supervisors employed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission for different Village Industries in implementing schemes for the development of Village Industries in the District.

There are nine Departmental Units engaged in the following Village Industries :—

| <i>Name of the industry.</i> |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Number of units.</i> |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|
| (1)                          |    |    |    |    |    | (2)                     |
| Soap-making                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                       |
| Playing Centres              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2                       |
| Model Tanneries              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4                       |
| Gramodyog Sales Depots       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2                       |
|                              |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> 9 <hr/>           |

A Cottage Match Industry Unit has been sanctioned for this District and this will start to work shortly.

There are 68 Industrial Co-operatives in the District engaged in the following Village Industries :—

| <i>Name of the Industry.</i>    |    |    |    |    |    | <i>Number of society.</i> |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---------------------------|
| (1)                             |    |    |    |    |    | (2)                       |
| Hand Pounding of Paddy Industry | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15                        |
| Village Oil Industry            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10                        |
| Pottery and Brick               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29                        |
| Bee-keeping                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                         |
| Lime                            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11                        |
| Handmade Paper                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                         |
| Leather Tanning                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                         |
|                                 |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> 68 <hr/>            |

In addition to the above, there are 171 Jaggery Manufacturing Co-operative Societies engaged in Palm Gur Industry. There is one District Federation which affiliates these societies to the State Palm Gur Federation at Madras.

There are 32 Blocks in the District with 78 Block Units, engaged in schemes under Development of Rural Arts Crafts and Industries.

The progress of work relating to various aspects of Khadi Scheme in the Ramanathapuram district is briefly described as follows :—

*Enlistment of Spinners:*—During the year 1961-62, nearly, 5,289 kisan spinners and 823 ambar spinners were on roll producing 535,179 and 256,730 kisan and ambar hanks respectively. The wages paid to the artisans alone amounted to Rs. 1,03,268·03.

During the year 1962-63, 2,614 kisan spinners and 323 ambar spinners were on roll and 882,027 kisan hanks and 199,518 ambar hanks were produced covering the artisans' wages to the extent of Rs. 1,52,400·00.

For the year 1963-64, 4,654 kisan spinners and 890 ambar spinners were on roll. 928,075 kisan hanks and 148,602 ambar hanks were produced and Rs. 150,905·02 had been spent towards wages to the artisans. For the year 1964-65, up to December 1964, 1,308 kisan spinners and 77 ambar spinners were on roll and produced 547,053·323 (Metric) kisan hanks and 80,401·215 (Metric) ambar hanks and Rs. 127,251·21 had been spent towards wages to the artisans.

*Follow-up-work:*—Follow-up-work was done by 20 Follow-up-Supervisors who were working in the Ramanathapuram District. A certain area was allotted to each Follow-up-Supervisor to do their work intensively and to contact the ambar spinners. They explained to the spinners the proper method of plying *charkhas* reactivate the idle *charkhas* and rectify the defects pointed out by the spinners.

*Khadi Production:*—Though Khadi Production was low at the beginning stage it has been gradually increased due to strenuous and systematic action taken by Khadi Department. During the year 1961-62, the production of khadi was at Rs. 2,88,191·48. The production of khadi during the year 1962-63 was valued at Rs. 3,76,791·00. From April 1913 to November 1963, khadi worth Rs. 2,93,313·78 had been produced. Enlistment of weavers and rehabilitation of weavers were done and construction of new houses to weavers free of cost, loom sheds, wrapping shed, etc., had been carried out. Khadi production had thus been increased by leaps and bounds.

There is a Loom-Supervisor at Srivilliputtur who periodically inspects looms weaving khadi throughout the District. He inspects the looms regularies and rectify the defects noticed in the looms then and there and suggests improvement in the technique of weaving.

**Khadi Sales:**—Khadi sales is an important factor and there may be a problem for marketing the khadi goods so produced. The sale of khadi is a potential factor in the Development of Khadi Scheme. The sale of khadi during the years 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64 and upto December 1964 is furnished below:—

| (1)                                   | (2)       |    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----|
|                                       | Rs.       | P. |
| 1961-62 .. .. .                       | 4,45,649  | 05 |
| 1962-63 .. .. .                       | 11,37,791 | 98 |
| 1963-64 .. .. .                       | 9,66,559  | 63 |
| 1964-65 (Up to December 1964) .. .. . | 5,38,300  | 87 |

Khadi goods are being supplied on credit basis to Government servants and Panchayat Union employees. This Department is also supplying khadi on credit basis to the staff of local bodies (i.e.), Municipalities. Khadi goods to the value not exceeding one month's basic pay of the individual are being supplied on credit, recoverable in equal monthly instalments. A rebate to the value of 0.20 paise per rupee for khadi varieties and 0.10 Paise for khadi silk varieties is usually allowed to the customers. Numerous and attractive khadi varieties are kept in depots and centres for sales.

The immediate requirements of this District in khadi are retained in the Ramanathapuram District and the surplus transferred to Central Godown (Khadi), Tiruppur and Regional Godown (Khadi), Madurai. In Central Godown, Tiruppur, the goods are processed through departmental bleaching, printing and dyeing units at Tiruppur and Erode and the processed materials supplied to all Government Departments and local bodies like Government hospitals, Panchayat Boards and Municipalities and other Government institutions. Khadi Department is supplying "uniform cloth" to Central Government Departments such as Railway and Postal Departments.

**Khadi Schemes in Blocks:**—At first Khadi Scheme was introduced in 16 Blocks, namely, Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Kamudi, Mudukulattur, Kadaladi, Tiruvadanai, Devakottai, Kallal, Kalaiyarkoil, Singampuneri, Virudhunagar, Kariapatty, Paramagudi, Manamadurai and Sivakasi. On later stage, Khadi Scheme was withdrawn and the Khadi Scheme was been entrusted in eight Panchayat Unions, namely, Sivakasi, Aruppukottai, Srivilliputtur, Kamudi, Kalaiyarkoil, Devakottai, Mudukulattur and Virudhunagar with a Second Grade Assistant in the cadre of Lower Division Clerk in charge of the scheme. They are also attending to the work of production of kisan yarn, introducing the *charkhas* and to push through khadi sales in Block areas.

To conclude the various aspects of khadi work in the Ramanathapuram District has been thus elaborately described. A Khadi Vidyalaya for imparting training to candidates of this Department

was constructed at Kamudi at a cost of approximately Rs. 1,35,000. This Vidyalyaya would impart training to candidates recruited for this Department.

Not all the industrialisation can achieve so striking a result, nor can any large scale industrialisation hope to give an occupation so simple and homely, yet so effective and immediate in point of relief, and without disturbing the village families and uprooting them from their native soil. The cure for mass unemployment and under employment can, therefore, be best found in simple remedies like the *charkha*, which is more congenial to rural soil than any large scale industrialisation or mechanisation of production. It is because the Government of Tamil Nadu have fully appreciated this economic truth that they have given all the importance to the Khadi Scheme.

(k) *Office of the Protector of Emigrants*:—This office was inaugurated in the year 1923 for the Port of Dhanushkodi with the Protector of Emigrants appointed under section 3 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, with a view to safe-guard the interests of labourers emigrating to Ceylon for eking out livelihood. He is also the head of office.

The normal duties of the Protector of Emigrants are to protect and aid with his advice all emigrants both skilled and unskilled and to see that all the provisions of the Act and of the Rules are complied with and other duties assigned under section 4 of the Act. His sphere of work spreads all over the State.

The departure of persons to Ceylon for the purpose of skilled and unskilled work was lawful and their movements were unrestricted until the departure for the purpose of unskilled work was banned by the Government of India by a notification on 1st August 1939. But this was relaxed to a certain extent on 1st September 1942.

Since the departure of unskilled labourers to Ceylon was banned, the Protector of Emigrants has to examine all classes of persons proceeding to Ceylon in order to ensure that no unskilled worker manoeuvred to proceed to Ceylon in the guise of skilled worker or otherwise, as restrictions were imposed on the departure of certain categories of persons. To satisfy the Protector of Emigrants at the time of examination, all persons proceeding to Ceylon were obliged to be in possession of credentials to prove their status and purpose of departure. Until the introduction of passports system in 1949 all persons had with them either 'A', or 'E' Unskilled Worker Certificate or Laisser Passer issued by the Indian authorities stationed in Ceylon or a certificate issued by a Stipendiary Magistrate under Section 4 (f) (2) (2) of the Indian Emigration Act or an Identity Certificate issued by the authorities of the Estate in case of labourers employed in Tea, Rubber Estates or a certificate issued by a recognised Indian Associations in Ceylon. In November 1949,

the Ceylon Government brought into force Immigration and Emigration Act of 1948 and introduced Visa system for entry into Ceylon. After the introduction of Passport and Visa system the Protector of Emigrants examines the genuineness and validity of the Passports of all passengers proceeding to Ceylon via Dhanushkodi and ensures that there is no evasion of the ban imposed by the Government of India.

A small contingent of the Staff of this Office is stationed at Dhanushkodi to attend to the embarkation of passengers and also to collect statistics of passengers proceeding and arriving at the port of Dhanushkodi. The Emigration Inspector attached to this office at Dhanushkodi takes charge of the persons who are deported to India by the Ceylon Government and records statements from such of the deportees who were illicit emigrants to Ceylon and hands them over to the Railway Police at Dhanushkodi for necessary legal action under the relevant provisions of the Indian Emigration Act.

(1) *Regional Employment Office*:—The Employment Service came into being in India under the stress of post-war demobilisation. Towards the end of the war the need was felt for a machinery that would satisfactorily handle orderly reabsorption in civil life of a large number of service personnel and war workers who were to be released. Having regard to the complexity of the problem and to ensure co-ordination and uniformity in policies governing demobilisation and resettlement it was considered necessary that the machinery to be set up should be directed and controlled by the Central Government. In accordance with a scheme that was agreed upon by the Central and State Governments a Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment was created in July 1945. The entire prepartitioned India was divided into nine regions and each was placed under the charge of a Regional Director. The Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment at Madras was in charge of the employment exchanges located in the composite state of Madras, as well as those located at the erstwhile part C States of Travancore, Mysore, Cochin and Hyderabad. He was assisted at the Headquarters by a Deputy Director and Assistant Directors. A Regional Employment office was opened at Madras and Sub-Regional Employment offices were opened at Vellore, Calicut, Bezwada, Vizag, Anantapur, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore and Madurai. Till the end of 1946 the employment service facilities were available only to demobilised services personnel and discharged war workers. In response to growing demands the scope of the service was gradually extended and by early 1948 all employment exchanges were thrown open to all categories of employment seekers.

Besides the employment assistance that was rendered, a training scheme to give further technical training to the service personnel to effect their speedy resettlement in Civil Life was also started. As in the

case of employment service, this scheme which was originally intended for service personnel was later on extended to all persons and was called the Adult Civilian Training Scheme.

In the early stage of the formation of the employment organisation, there was no separate employment office for Ramanathapuram District and the Sub-Regional Employment Office at Madurai catered to the needs of the residents of the District. In January 1947 a District Employment Office for each revenue district under the control of a District Employment Officer was opened and thus the District of Ramanathapuram had an office with its headquarters at Madurai.

By virtue of Government orders making it obligatory on the part of the Government Departments to recruit through Employment Exchange their personnel other than those recruited through Public Service Commissions, vacancies were notified by them and suitable qualified applicants who were available on the registers of this office were introduced for those posts. The co-operation of the private enterprises were enlisted through publicity measures and personal contacts. Gradually the institutions under the local body administration were also persuaded to recruit certain categories of personnel through the Employment Exchanges.

In the year 1954 the Government of India constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Thiru B. Shiva Rao, to determine its future set up. The committee in its recommendation stated among other things that the day-to-day administration should be transferred to the State Governments concerned and the policies to be directed by the Central Government and the expenses to be met in the ratio of 60 : 40 between the Central and the State. Accordingly the organisation was handed over to State Government and the National Employment Service in the residuary Madras State with one District Employment Office for each revenue district was formed and the entire organisation was placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. He was redesignated as Commissioner of Labour and director of Employment. He was assisted by a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director with their headquarters at Madras.

Since the Committee recommended that "it is the function of the Employment Service to collect comprehensive information on a continuing basis information regarding the supply as well as the current and anticipated demand for labour in all its aspects, and added that the Employment Service should be the main agency for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics in regard to employment and unemployment, the situation and trend and the requirements of different occupations and industries in regard to manpower", the Employment Market Information Scheme was started under the Second Five-Year Plan Scheme. Though primarily this enquiry was conducted among the establishment located

in public sector, this was later on extended to cover all the establishments in private sector employing 10 or more employees. Meanwhile the Parliament enacted the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act 1959 by which all establishments in private sector employing 25 or more persons were required to notify their vacancies carrying emoluments of Rs. 60 and above are likely to last for a period of more than three months to the nearest employment exchange and also to render quarterly returns showing the employment position as at the end of each quarter, as well as the number of vacancies that occurred, notified and filled through the Employment Office. Penalty provisions was also included in the Act to guard against possible defaulting employers. This has resulted in the increased use of this office by more private employers. The all round expansion activities in the education, medical services due to the implementation of various development projects in the State Government and Local Bodies and the formation of the Panchayat Unions have resulted in a sharp increase in all aspects of the work in the employment service.

In order to overcome the difficulties that may be encountered by applicants living in remote areas in coming over to district headquarters for registration and other purposes, a mobile registration unit was started in this office and an upper division clerk in charge camps at the taluk headquarters of Thiruvadanai, Mudukulattur taluk and at Sivakasi for 3 days in a week each month to register and render other employment assistance to those applicants who may call on him at these places.

The Government of Madras under the expansion programmes have also set up an Employment Information and Assistance Bureau at the premises of the Block Development Office at Paramagudi where preliminary registration and other employment assistance to employment seekers are rendered by an upper division clerk who is placed in charge of this unit.

There is also a Youth Employment Service and Adult counselling Unit at Madurai which gives vocational guidance to the educated employment seekers of the choice of careers, etc. though this unit is actually attached to the District Employment Office, Madurai, the services are utilised by the applicants of this District also. With a view to help the employment seekers to choose a right career various career pamphlets and guidance pamphlets on about 100 different careers have been brought out by the Government of India and they are available for sale at this office at a very nominal cost. A Tamil series of the same have also been printed for sale and so far eight trades have been completed.

The Technical Training Scheme which formed part of the employment service while this organisation was under the central set up was taken over by the Industries Department consequent on the transfer of the day-to-day administration to State Government. Recently this Technical Training Scheme was also brought under the

fold of this service and a separate Director of Employment and Training has been appointed, who is assisted by a Joint Director and an Assistant Director.

Besides the day-to-day work carried on at the Employment Office, the Employment Market Information Unit functioning in that office addresses about 1,084 establishments both in the public and private sectors at the end of each quarter calling for particulars of employees, etc., and the data so obtained are analysed and sent to the headquarters office at Madras for study at State and all India level. Quarterly news letters on the Employment Market of Ramanathapuram District showing the employment trends, buoyancy of employment depression on persons in short supply are also issued at the end of each quarter based on the periodical returns obtained from the employees. The quarterly enquiry in the public sector is conducted since 1958 while the enquiry in the private sector was started in 1960. Nearly 51,670 employees are covered in both the private and public sector establishments during each round of enquiry. Regular personal contacts are established with the employers in the District both by the District and Junior Employment Officers and the usefulness of this scheme, the provisions of the compulsory notification of vacancies act and other activities of the National Employment Service are explained to them.

Mention may also be made of the roll played by this office at the time of national emergency in having mustered the entire applicants on the registers for introducing those suitable to the Recruiting Officer at Madurai for enrolment in the Defence Services.

A statement showing some important statistics of work done by this office in the year 1947 and for the last 10 years is given below which will reveal the steady growth of this service as well as the valuable assistance it has been rendering to the employment seekers and employers since its inception.

STATEMENT.

| <i>Year.</i>              |    |    |    | <i>Number<br/>Registered.</i> | <i>Number<br/>Placed.</i> | <i>Vacancies<br/>Notified.</i> | <i>Employers<br/>used the<br/>Exchange.</i> |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| (1)                       |    |    |    | (2)                           | (3)                       | (4)                            | (5)   |
| 1947                      | .. | .. | .. | 6,171                         | 650                       | 514                            | 142   |
| 1954                      | .. | .. | .. | 6,575                         | 1,247                     | 1,507                          | 336   |
| 1955                      | .. | .. | .. | 7,671                         | 1,147                     | 1,478                          | 410   |
| 1956                      | .. | .. | .. | 8,931                         | 1,444                     | 2,341                          | 585   |
| 1957                      | .. | .. | .. | 9,518                         | 1,448                     | 1,675                          | 455   |
| 1958                      | .. | .. | .. | 10,829                        | 2,259                     | 2,385                          | 576   |
| 1959                      | .. | .. | .. | 11,562                        | 2,182                     | 2,517                          | 604   |
| 1960                      | .. | .. | .. | 11,164                        | 2,243                     | 2,531                          | 529   |
| 1961                      | .. | .. | .. | 11,727                        | 2,309                     | 3,649                          | 1,039                                       |
| 1962                      | .. | .. | .. | 13,305                        | 2,127                     | 2,694                          | 975   |
| 1963 (Up to October 1963) |    |    |    | 11,375                        | 1,790                     | 2,510                          | 651   |



## CHAPTER XIV.

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Pandyan inscriptions attributed to the 8th Century give a rudimentary picture of the earliest local self-governments which existed in these regions. These inscriptions make reference to *sabhas*, which were village assemblies which formed an integral part of village self-government. An inscription of 9th century A.D. discovered in Tirunelveli lays down a rule for the conduct of the village assemblies : "that no member should persistently oppose every proposal brought before the assembly". The origin and early history of these *sabhas* could not be traced. But there are ample epigraphical evidences to prove that this kind of assemblies were prevalent all over Tamilnad at one time. Though there seems to have been a kind of local body in the early centuries of Christian Era, these assemblies had not come into existence only during the period, but had an earlier origin.

Three types of local bodies existed during the period, the *Sabhas*, *Ur* and *Nagaram*. The *sabha* was purely a brahminical body which existed in the *agraharas*—the localities inhabited by brahmins. The *Ur* existed in the non-brahmins village where the population was a mixed one. The *Nagaram*, the third type of assembly was probably an assembly in colonies of merchants.<sup>1</sup>

There are numerous references to the *Sangam* (சங்கம்) and the *Podiyil* (பொதியில்) in the Tamil literature of the *Sangam* period. There is also reference to another village institution called the *Manram* (மன்றம்). Nachinarkiniyar, the Tamil poet explains *Manram* by the words *Uruku Naduve Yellarumirukum Marathadi* (ஊருக்கு நடுவே எல்லாருமிருக்கும் மரத்தடி) meaning "the open place in the centre of the village where all people meet, under the shade of a tree". Evidently, it refers to the thriving democratic institutions of the time where policies were discussed in the open and conclusions arrived at by common consent.

While Pandya Nadu passed under the control of the Cholas in 920 A.D., the latter enforced the administrative system which they had evolved on the Pandya country. It was an efficient and a highly centralised system. During the period of Rajaraja Chola, Pandya Nadu was made one of the nine *Mandalams* of the Chola Empire with the name *Rajaraja Chola Mandalam*. Ramanathapuram District also then formed a part of this *Mandalam*. Numerous inscriptions of the period of Rajaraja Chola (A.D. 985-1014) throw some light on the administrative machinery of the Cholas. The *Mandalam* or province was formed by many divisions called *Nadu*

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<sup>1</sup>. John Mathai : Local Self-Government in British India—1915, Page 30.

<sup>2</sup>. V. Venkata Rao ; A hundred years of Local Self-Government in the Madhra and Madras States—1960 Page 17.

<sup>3</sup>. Puram 89 and 85.

• திருருகாற்றுப்படை உரை—216-ம் அடி.

ranging from one to twelve. The sub-divisions of the *Nadu* were also called *Nadu* or *Kurram*, each of which was named after the chief village in group of subordinate villages belonging to the *Kurram*. At the base of this hierarchy was the village, *Ur* or the *Nagaram*. These different administrative divisions had their own local administrative machineries with well defined relation with the central authority. The larger administrative units had special assemblies to dispose off some special business affecting the local group, in addition to the regular institutions. In larger assemblies, there appears to have been communal representation. There was also a primitive form of committee system. Different committees met together and decided certain common issues. An inscription from Madurai refers to an assembly of the Naiks, Ambalakaras and Kavundar on deciding a dispute.

The powers and functions of these assemblies varied from place to place. But they were generally concerned with the normal functions of a local authority such as the acquisition and disposal of lands, grant of lands, collection of taxes payable to the Imperial Government and levying of taxes for local purposes. In addition, these assemblies exercised certain judicial powers also. They could try certain classes of cases and impose certain kinds of punishment. Not only general civic issues of the village, but also many personal problems in which individuals are involved were discussed in these assemblies. But there was no process of division with a view to let the majority decide the issue. Unanimity was always aimed at in these assemblies and the opinions of the more influential and the wise were accepted<sup>1</sup>. The responsibility for administrative work was vested in small executive committees appointed by the general assembly. The committee was assisted by a civil service, who were styled as "Madhyasthas" i.e. neutrals in politics. They were appointed and dismissed by the village assemblies and they were paid both in kind and cash.

Another important institution that helped the growth of local self-Government was the temple. The numerous gifts made to the temple by the devotees of the area, called for the proper administration. This gave the people a scope to practice the ideas of local self-Government. The gifts made by the devotees were of various forms and kinds. Diverse talents were required for their proper administration and this gave rise to a regular hierarchy of officers. In Tamil literary works of the period there are references to *Padipathamulathar* (படிபாத முலத்தார்)<sup>2</sup> those who attend to the sacred feet of God, *Thirukoviludaiyar* (திருகோவிலுடையார்)<sup>3</sup> those who are in charge of the temple, and the like. There seems to have been a separate assembly for the management of the temple called *Paridai* and the assembly maintained a temple staff. In some cases, the

1. John Mathai: Village Government in British India, 1915, Page 30.

2. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri—Studies in Chola History and Administration—1932—page 181.

*sabha* itself was given charge of the temple and it appointed two special officers called *Variyar* and *Karanathar* (Accountant). There are ample epigraphical evidences to prove that the area now forming Ramanathapuram District came fully in the sway of the administrative system of the Chola Empire. An inscription at Tiruppattur, attributed to the period of Maravarman Tirubhuvanachakravarthi Parakrama Pandya Deva, refers to the local assembly of the place and to the local *Naralokavira*, an official of the Chola bureaucracy. Such local assemblies in exceptional situations rose to the occasion and tried to alleviate the sufferings of the people. An inscription of 1054 A.D. records about a village assembly expecting no help from the king, trying to secure relief for the people when the locality was in the grips of severe famine. Whenever the control of Central Administration slackened, the local bodies of the area came forward to give full protection to the people under their charge. The villages appear to have enjoyed a large amount of local autonomy.

These local bodies possessed inherent capacity to cope up with internal difficult situations. They also engendered a high level of public spirit among the people. One such instance of individual service to the village and communal appreciation has been recorded in an inscription at Tiruppattur in Ramanathapuram District. It is said that the temple of Tirutalaiyanda Nayanar at Tiruppattur was occupied by the encamped Mohammedans, probably under Malik Kafur in 1311 and consequently was ruined and desecrated. The inhabitants of Tiruppattur were very much upset by this. At this time a certain Visalayadeva of Kuraikudi surnamed Avaiyan Periyannayanar, reconstructed the temple and saved the people from imminent moral and religious indignation. To show their gratitude to Visalayadeva, the inhabitants of Tiruppattur assigned to him a specified quantity of corn from the harvest reaped by each individual and to confer on him certain privileges in the temple of Tirutalaiyanda Nayanar<sup>1</sup>.

*The Nayak Period:*—Viswanatha Nayakka (1529–1564) divided the Madurai Country into 72 *Palaiyams* for purposes of local administration. Muthukrishnappa Nayakka (1601–1609) effected the settlement of the Marava country. He made the Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram as the Chief Poligar and under him were a number of poligars. In the field of local government the Nayaks introduced a few changes, which was more in nomenclature than in the structure of the system. The unit of administration continued to be the village ; several villages were grouped under a large division called *Mahana*, which was a part of *Nadu*. *Nadu* was a part of a large unit which was differently called *rajya*, *desam*, *mandala* or *rashtra*. Inscriptions show that provinces were divided into *nadu*, *simai* or *mahana* and village variously called *gramam*, *mangalam*, *samudram*,

<sup>1</sup> R. K. Mookarji—Local Government in Ancient India—1919—Page 201,

*Kudi, Ur, Puram, Kulam, Kurichi, Patti*, etc. Each village had two judges and they were held in great respect by the inhabitants of the village. This fact is borne out by the travel records of John Nicuhoff.<sup>1</sup>

The Poligar System coupled with the centralising tendency of the Vijayanagar empire began to produce unhappy results. Whenever the poligars were not at war with the Imperial Government they were at war with each other. The taxes of the Nayaks were resented by the poligars. Tirumala Nayakka (1623-1659) for instance, on the occasion of great festivals at his capital ordered that each village was bound to provide a certain number of men to drag the gigantic temple cars in procession and this service was designated and taxed as *Ther-Uliyam* or car service<sup>2</sup>. It was seldom possible to extract tribute from the local rulers without a display of military might by the Imperial Government. The constant state of war in which the Madurai country found itself till 1801, militated against any healthy evolution of local self-governing institutions.

The poligars used what was then known as *Kaval* System to extract money from the people. The *Kudi Kaval* or the *Stala Kaval*, the village watch, afforded protection to the villagers against the threats to their life and property. The office of the *Kavalgar* or watchman was hereditary. The Nayaks introduced *Desakaval* in the early years of the 18th century. This was maintained by a local levy paid by the inhabitants of a village.

The British took over most of the area in the present Ramanathapuram District in 1803. With their advent the existing local self-governing institutions gradually disappeared. The district officers of the East India Company looked with disfavour at these institutions since it was held that these institutions would vitiate their efforts towards consolidation and centralisation. Moreover, the increase in the number of District Munsif courts set up by the British gave the people an opportunity to go to a more powerful authority to settle their disputes. The introduction of ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency administered the final blow on the rural self-governing bodies. The machinery of local self-government is purely the creation of the British. The ancient and medieval local self-governing institutions did not affect the creation of new bodies by the British. This fact is brought out by the various stages through which the existing local self-governing bodies had to pass through during their process of evolution.

*The British Period:*—The origin of the present system of local self-government in Ramanathapuram can be traced back to the first levy of taxes for local purposes. The idea of local funds for local services originated in 1853 when Edward Maltby, the Collector of South Arcot, suggested to the Government the constitution of a

1. R. Sathianatha Iyer—History of the Nayaks of Madurai—1924—Page 324.

2. Calcutta Review: April 1900—Article 1—"When Tirumala the Great ruled".

fund consisting of a small fraction of the land assessment for the construction of roads. The Madras Government accepted this system and it was brought into effect in Madurai District (which then included the present Ramanathapuram District) and the rest of the Presidency in the year 1855. In 1864, this fund which consisted of a small fraction of land assessment for construction of roads, became so substantial that the need for its effective control was felt. Accordingly, the Government of India ordered that the Road Fund should be administered by the Collector who should also be responsible for the selection of works for execution and the Board of Revenue exercised general supervision over this Road Fund. It was soon found that the amount in the Fund was not sufficient for the maintenance of roads. Further, it was collected from Government tenants only. The zamindars of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga and the other inamdars who were also benefited by this local fund did not pay their due share. In order to rectify this defect and distribute the burden of the tax more equally, the Madras Road Cess Act of 1866 was passed. It authorised the levy of a road cess, at six pies in every rupee on the annual rental value of lands on any kind of tenure. This Act was in force till 1870<sup>1</sup>.

The Education Cess Act which had been passed by the Madras Government in 1863 also embodied to a certain extent the principal of local self-government. Prior to 1863, Education Cess was collected on a voluntary basis in certain villages. As the payment was voluntary, there was the danger that some of the schools might be closed at any time. Further in certain areas in the Madras Presidency there was no school at all. To remedy all these defects the Education Cess was made compulsory by the Act of 1863. The Act authorised the Collectors of the districts to constitute in every locality which had a rate school, a committee consisting of the Inspector, Deputy Inspector and a member of citizens of the locality. The above committee was given the power to levy tax on all the residents of the locality and manage the schools themselves. The Committee was also given the option to continue or close down the schools maintained under this fund.

The year 1871, marked the next landmark in the growth of local self-government in Madras Presidency. In this year the Local Funds Act was passed for the administration of local funds and for this purpose local bodies were created for the first time in rural areas. Under this Act Circle Boards were created in each district. It was understood that each circle would be bigger than a taluk, but smaller than a district. It meant that each district may be divided into a number of circles. In accordance with this Act, the Madras Presidency was divided into 36 circles. But later on this division underwent a change and the number of circles was reduced to 30. This Act was introduced in Ramanathapuram area in the same year.

<sup>1</sup>. V. Venkata Rao—A hundred years of local self-government in the Andhra and Madras States—1960—Pages 5-6.

Madurai District was divided into two circles called the Madurai Circle and the Dindigul Circle. The zamindari divisions of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga along with the taluks of Madurai and Melur went to form the Madurai Circle. Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks which were then included in the Tirunelveli District formed a part of one of the two circles into which Tirunelveli District was divided namely Tirunelveli Circle. In both these circles the rate of land cess was fixed at 9 pies per rupee. In each of this district a Local Fund Board was created with the Collector of the district as the President.<sup>1</sup> The Local Fund Board of Madurai, which included the present Ramanathapuram District excluding Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks, consisted of 24 members—12 official and 12 non-official. Both in the Tirunelveli and Madurai circle roads, education, sanitation and medical health, were transferred to the local fund boards and were made a charge upon local funds.

There is evidence to show that the non-official members of the Board showed little interest in the local affairs. To remedy this defect it was decided to increase the powers of the non-official element in the Local Bodies. The Local Boards Act of 1884 was passed. It repealed the Act of 1871 and constituted new local bodies. This Act embodied the famous Resolution of Ripon on local self-government. This Act abolished the old system of circle boards and district boards were created for each revenue district consisting of a President and not less than 24 members who might all be appointed by the Government or might be partly so appointed and partly elected by the members of the newly created taluk boards from among their own members or in any part of the district where there was no taluk board, by the union boards (another set of newly created local bodies) and by the tax payers of the rural parts of the district. The members were to hold office for three years. All Revenue Divisional Officers were made *ex-officio* members. The proportion of the official members was reduced from one half to one fourth of the total strength. Under this new Act, the President of the District Board might be elected from among the members of the District Board if the Government so directed and this privilege of electing the President was given to the Madurai District Board. In Tirunelveli also a District Board was created.

The strength of the Madurai and Tirunelveli District Boards, which included portions of the present Ramanathapuram District till its constitution into a separate district in 1910, was fixed at 40 and 28 members respectively. The number included both elected and nominated members. The Collector was the *ex-officio* President. Except for the areas controlled by municipalities, the district boards were given jurisdiction over the whole of the revenue district. In the year 1886, taluk boards were created on the same principles for each taluk or group of taluks consisting of a President and 12 members who might either be all nominated or partly elected and

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<sup>1</sup>. G.O., No. 619, Public, dated 9th May 1871.

partly nominated. The jurisdiction of the taluk was the same as that of a revenue division and the Revenue Divisional Officer was made the *ex-officio* President of the Taluk Board. In the year 1886, the taluk boards of Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram were formed. These taluk boards had two official and nine non-official members.

Another change brought about by the Act of 1884, was the creation of union boards for a single village or group of villages called unions. The unions were generally constituted less than five persons, the headman of the village forming the board being *ex-officio* member. One of these headmen was to be appointed as Chairman, members other than village headman were to be either all appointed by the Government or partly appointed and partly elected by the tax-payers. Their term of office was fixed at three years. The duties and responsibilities of the union boards were declared to be lighting of the public roads, the cleaning of public roads, drains, wells and other places, the establishment and maintaining of dispensaries and schools, the making and repairing of roads and drains, the constructing and repairing of tanks and wells and generally doing such things as might be necessary for the preservation of public health.

#### *Ramanathapuram District Board.*

The Ramanathapuram District came into existence from 1st June 1910. The headquarters of the new District was located at Madurai. A separate District Board was constituted on the formation of the new District.

The Local Boards Act that was passed in 1920, liberalised the constitutional structure of the local boards. This Act gave permission to the district boards to elect their Vice-Presidents and Presidents if authorised by the Government. The maximum strength of the Board was raised to 42, of whom three fourths were elected and one fourth appointed by the Government. In the year 1930, another Local Boards Act was passed and the local bodies were completely democratised. Franchise was widened and difficulties in the way of electing women as members were removed. The practice of nominating members to the district and taluk boards was abolished and the members were elected directly to the District Board instead of through taluk boards.

Ramachandran, B.A., B.L., an eminent lawyer of Sivaganga, commanded no small respect in the field of politics, education and social uplift of masses. Ramachandran was a Member of the Ramanathapuram District Board from 1927 to 1929, and was the Member of the Education Board during the same period. He became the President of the Sivaganga Taluk Board and acted for the President of the District Board from 27—10—1927 to 6—4—1929.

Karpurasundara Pandian, B.A., a Vakil of Sivaganga was a Pleader to the Courts of Wards till the year 1934. He was an

active Member at the Taluk and District boards during the years 1926 to 1931<sup>1</sup>.

The Madras Local Boards Amendment Act of 1934 was the next step. At the time of passing of this Act there were four taluk boards in Ramanathapuram District, namely, that of Ramanathapuram, Devakottai, Sivaganga and Sivakasi. Among these, Ramanathapuram Taluk Board was the biggest with 24 members among whom 18 were elected and all the other taluk boards had 21 members among whom 16 were elected. The Act of 1934 abolished these taluk boards as the Government felt that the taluk boards were causing undue strain on its resources.

The factors that led to the abolition of the taluk boards and their reconstitution into district boards are given below :—

(1) The land cess of one anna in the rupee on the annual rental value of land levied under the Act of 1920 was shared equally between the District Board and taluk boards. They were also permitted to levy an optional cess of 3 pies. But the amended Act of 1930 curtailed this to one anna six pies to be distributed among the District Board, Taluk Board, Panchayat and Village Development Fund at 6 pies, 6 pies, 3 pies and 3 pies respectively. This resulted in the loss of revenue to district boards and taluk boards. The number of Panchayats also increased from year to year. (2) In 1930 it was decided to have a Taluk Board for each taluk. This also resulted in the increase of taluk boards which also contributed to the diminution of the income of the taluk boards. (3) The Madras Vehicles Act, 1930 deprived the district boards a substantial portion of their income.

To have effective control and better supervision and administration, the Government decided to bifurcate bigger district boards. The Ramanathapuram District Board was bifurcated into North Ramanathapuram District Board and South Ramanathapuram District Board in the year 1936.

Though the Ramanathapuram District Board had a normal surplus of Rs. 60,000, the bifurcation resulted in a deficit for the South Ramanathapuram District Board as illustrated below :—

| (1)                      |        | <i>Ramanathapuram District Board,</i> | <i>North Ramanathapuram District Board,</i> | <i>South Ramanathapuram District Board,</i> |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|                          |        | <i>Board,</i>                         | <i>Board,</i>                               | <i>Board,</i>                               |
|                          |        | (LAKHS.)                              | (LAKHS.)                                    | (LAKHS.)                                    |
| (2)                      |        | (3)                                   | (4)   | (5)   |
| Total receipts .. ..     | 8.83   | 4.47                                  | 4.30  |   |
| Expenditure .. ..        | 8.14   | 3.92                                  | 4.39  |   |
| Surplus or deficit .. .. | + 0.69 | + 0.55                                | - 0.09                                      |   |

Further, even under the Elementary Education Fund the bifurcated boards were found to have deficit though the Ramanathapuram District Board had a surplus of Rs. 25,000. Moreover the Ramanathapuram District Board was involved in a debt of Rs. 3.91 lakhs and consequently had diverted Rs. 1.05 lakhs from Railway Cess Fund which had to be returned in ten instalments.

1. *Source*: Madhwa Rau, N., *Encyclopaedia of South India and Ceylon*, 1937-38, pp.—72-73.



In 1936, the Board passed a resolution recommending to the Government not to bifurcate the Ramanathapuram District Board considering its weak financial position and the number of miles of roads and other institutions maintained being lesser than the other boards and also considering its unsuitability for being divided into two equal groups geographically. But the Government ordered the bifurcation of the Ramanathapuram District Board into North Ramanathapuram District Board and South Ramanathapuram District Board with effect from 23rd December 1936 afternoon. The jurisdiction of the South Ramanathapuram District Board comprised the revenue taluks of Sattur, Srivilliputtur, Aruppukottai, Mudukulattur, Ramanathapuram and southern portion of Paramagudi consisting of all the villages in the Ramanathapuram Zamindaries. The headquarters of this Board was fixed at Madurai. The Municipal Council, Virudhunagar moved the Government to fix the Headquarters of this Board at Virudhunagar. But the Government passed orders fixing Madurai as the permanent headquarters.

The North Ramanathapuram District Board also came into existence with effect from 20th December 1936 afternoon. The jurisdiction of this Board comprised the revenue taluks of Tiruvadanai, Tiruppattur, Sivaganga and a part of Paramagudi which included the Zamindari taluks of Ilayangudi and Seikalathur of the Sivaganga Zamindari. Tiruppattur was fixed as its headquarters.

The North and South Ramanathapuram district boards continued till 15th November 1938 on which date the two boards were amalgamated as Ramanathapuram District Board as a measure of effecting economy in the cost of the administration of boards. The jurisdiction of the Ramanathapuram District Board extended for the whole of the revenue district of Ramanathapuram with headquarters at Madurai.

The number of electoral circles for the bifurcated and the amalgamated boards are given below :—

|                                     |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| North Ramanathapuram District Board | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 |
| South Ramanathapuram District Board | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 |
| Ramanathapuram District Board       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42 |

With the advent of World War II, the system of nomination was again introduced. In 1946, with the advent of Indian National Congress to power the system of nominated members was done away with and the Collector was appointed as Special Officer for the District Board till a fresh elections were held. In 1949, when fresh elections were held the District Board was reconstituted with elected members.

The salient features of the District Board administration after the elections and at the time of the passing of the Panchayats Act of 1950, in Ramanathapuram District can be obtained from the Administration Report of the year. Since there was no elected

Board during this year, the functions of the Board were carried out by the Collector of the District, who by virtue of his office became the Special Officer of the District Board. Its total revenue for the year was Rs. 23 lakhs. The bulk of the revenue came from the land cess which was levied at the rate of 2 annas in the rupee of annual revenue assessment. Out of this two annas per rupee of assessment, panchayat boards were entitled to 6 pies. Another major source of revenue for Ramanathapuram District Board was the education cess which was levied at the rate of 16½ pies in the rupees of land revenue. Besides, the Board received Rs. 33,450 from the Government as compensation for loss of income under Profession Tax during the year under consideration.

The elected District Board functioned up to 1st November 1937 with 50 members ; of which 8 were reserved seats. The District Board was abolished in 3 stages. The first stage being on 2nd October 1960 when the panchayat unions of Singampuneri, Paramagudi, Kamudi, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi, Kariapatti and Tiruvadanai came into existence. The second stage came into effect on 14th April 1961, when Kalaiyarkoil, Devakottai, Kallal, Manamadurai, Kadaladi, Mudukulattur, Mantapam, Ramanathapuram, Bogalur, Kannangudi, Rajasingamangalam, Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar, Sattur, Vembakottai and Watrap panchayat unions were, formed. On 2nd October 1961, the District Board was completely abolished with the constitution of the remaining panchayat unions. They were Aruppukkottai, Narikkudi, Tiruchuli, Tiruppullani, Tiruppuvanam, Ilayangudi, Tiruppattur, Sakkottai, and Sivaganga. With effect from 1st November 1957, the Collector of the District, discharged all the functions of the District Board as Special Officer during the various stages of the abolition of the District Board.

The total revenue of the District Board which amounted to Rs. 35,53,857 in 1930-31 and Rs. 35,61,303 in 1950-51 increased to Rs. 92,41,024 in 1960-61. There was enormous increase in the activities of the District Board especially during the decade 1950-51 to 1960-61. There were 550 elementary schools in 1950-51 and the figure in 1960-61 was 1,524. The number of secondary schools rose from 17 to 65 from the year 1950-51 to 1960-61. The total length of District Board roads was 666 miles 1 furlong during 1960-61 as against 571 miles 7 furlong during 1930-31. The total cost of maintenance of roads during the year 1960-61 was Rs. 3,14,584.24 as against the sanctioned allotment of Rs. 2,50,000. There were 13 rest houses in the District Board with 24 suites in all. In addition, 6 choultries and 10 water-sheds were under the control of the District Board besides four otherwise endowed institutions. The total receipts from 6 choultries during 1960-61 was Rs. 31,399 and the total expenditure was Rs. 25,323. During 1960-61, there were 43 regular medical institutions and 47 rural dispensaries as against 65 hospitals and dispensaries in 1950-51. There were 1 cattle fair, 7 weekly and one daily market during the year 1960-61 as against 13 weekly and daily markets in 1950-51.

*Municipalities:*—The nucleus of municipal administration was laid by the India Act XXVI of 1850 which made provisions for the establishment of municipal councils. The members were the District Magistrate of the place and a number of commissioners nominated by the Government. This Act was superseded by the Madras Town Improvements Act X of 1865. Under the Provisions of the Act, the municipal council should consist of three ex-officio members, viz. the District Magistrate, the Local Magistrate and the Range Officer of the Public Works Department and five more members nominated by the Government. The District Magistrate was the ex-officio President of the Council.

The Act of 1865 was superseded by the Town Improvements Act of 1871. Under this Act the number of ex-officio members was reduced to two, the Collector and the Revenue Divisional Officer. The Collector was the ex-officio President of the Council. One of the members of the Council was appointed Vice-President. The Municipal Councils under the Act of 1871 consisted of two types of members, ex-officio and ordinary. The one difference between the Act of 1865 and the Act of 1871 was that in the latter the word Collector was substituted for the word Magistrate. Further the Act authorised the Government to appoint any public officer to be a member of any Municipal Council whether he resided within municipal limits or not. The Act of 1871 provided for permissive election of a certain number of members. Thus the municipal council consisted of two main classes of members each divided into two sub-classes, officials, and non-officials, ex-officio officials and nominated officials, non-officials elected and non-officials nominated<sup>1</sup>.

By the District Municipalities Act of 1884 the number of ex-officio members was reduced to one. Under the Act of 1871 the official strength of the councils was not to be less than one half of the total strength but under the Act of 1884 it was reduced to one-fourth. Under the Act of 1884, not less than three fourths of the members must be elected, unless otherwise directed.

The District Municipalities Act of 1884 was repealed by the Madras District Municipalities Act V of 1920. The constitutional structure of the council was radically changed by the new Act. The Act provided that the Government might by notification, declare any town or village as a municipality or abolish any municipality. The ex-officio element was abolished. Officials and non-officials could be nominated but their number was not to exceed one-fourth of the total strength of the council. In that year also an Inspector of Municipal Councils was appointed to inspect and supervise the working of the municipalities. In 1970, his designation was

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1. V. Venkata Rao: A Hundred Years of Local Self-Government in the Andhra and Madras States, pages 35-36.

changed as the Director of Municipal Administration<sup>1</sup>. The term of the Councillors was to be three years. The collector of the District might exercise control over the Council in case of default or emergency. The Government reserved the powers to suspend the execution of any resolution of the Council and to appoint officers of their own to superintend the municipalities. The Government might also lend their own officers to the Council<sup>1</sup>.

The District Municipalities Act of 1920 was modified in some respects by the Act X of 1930. By this Act the nominated element was completely eliminated. This Act laid down that every member of the municipal council should be elected. It provided for the reservation of seats for minority communities, Muslims, Indian Christians, Harijans, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and women. It also removed the disqualification of women to stand for election. It made the office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman elective and provided for the passing of votes of no-confidence in the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and for the adjudication of disputes between local bodies.

*Srivilliputtur Municipality*:—This Municipality was the first to be constituted in the Ramanathapuram District. An Act on Municipalities passed in the year 1884 liberalised the existing municipal structure and it was under this Act that the Municipality of Srivilliputtur was constituted in the year 1885. But the people of the area who mainly belonged to agriculturist class represented to the Government that the municipality might be abolished. Accordingly, the Municipality was abolished in the year 1886. The town then continued to be an Union. On 1st October 1894, it was again constituted a Municipality. Originally, the strength of the Municipal Council was fixed at 18. But in 1898 the number of Councillors was reduced to 12 of whom three were to be appointed by election. The present strength (in 1971) of the Municipal Council is 28, including one reserved seat for Scheduled Caste and one reserved for women. The privilege of electing the Vice-Chairman was granted to the Council in the year 1904. At present (in 1971) the area of the Municipality is 5.7 square kilometres. The population of the town according to the 1971 Census was 53,859. The town has been divided into 26 wards for electoral purposes. The Council maintains 53.9 kilometres of roads. There is a Municipal Engineer (II Grade) in charge of public works and water-supply. The Council is constructing a new building to house the Municipal Office at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,58,000 and a market stall at an estimated cost of Rs. 51,000. The Municipality is maintaining a tourist bungalow (Class II). The Council maintains 4 junior and 4 senior basic schools. The Municipality maintains a Maternity Home with three beds.

1. G. O. Ms. No. 142, Rural Development and Local Administration Department, dated 2nd February 1970.

2. V. Venkata Rao: A Hundred Years of Local Self-Government in the Andhra and Madras States, pages 36-37.

3. South Arcot District Gazetteer, 1962, page 351

This town is provided with protected water supply scheme. The total number of house connections in the municipal area in 1971 was 3,045 of which 2,961 were under tap rate system and 84 under metered system. The average daily supply of water was 21,60,000 litres, the cost for 1000 litres of water was 60 paise, and the net profit earned by the Municipality during the year 1970-71 was Rs. 29,123-76.

Five Town Planning Schemes have been sanctioned, out of which one has been executed by the Municipality.

This Municipality has collected all the taxes and non-taxes and achieved cent per cent collection from the year 1961-62. The rolling shield issued for cent per cent collection during the years 1963-64 to 1967-68 has also been ordered to be retained permanently in this Municipality. The Government have also been issued another rolling shield for the cent per cent collection made during the year 1968-69 and 1969-70.

*The Sivakasi Municipality:*—This town was constituted into a municipality with effect from 1st October 1920. The area covered by the Municipality is (in 1971) 7 square kilometres and the population according to 1971 Census was 44,889. The town has been divided into 22 electoral wards. The strength of the Council is (in 1971) 24.

The Engineering branch of this Municipality consists of one Engineer (III Grade), one Waterworks Supervisor, etc., and suitable number of other staff. The Municipality maintains 34.5 kilometres of roads. It also maintains one tourist bungalow, and one rest house.

The Municipality maintains three elementary schools, and one high school. Though adequate facilities existed for education in this town, the number of children remaining outside the schools could not be reduced since most of them get employed in match factories and litho presses. However, compulsory education is in force in this area. All the three elementary schools are located in Municipal owned buildings. The Council maintains a Maternity Centre with 8 beds. There is a Family Planning Clinic.

There are nine detailed Town Planning Schemes for this Municipality. The town has protected water supply system. Water is being pumped from the headwork pumping stations at Vembakottai, fed by the infiltration gallery in the river *Vaipar* to the water works reservoir and distributed to the public.

The total number of house connections in the municipal area in 1971 was 2,241 of which 123 were metered and 2,118 unmetered connections; the number of gallons of water per head per diem was (in 1970-71) 13.12; the net profit earned by the Municipality was (in 1970-71) Rs. 25,540.

In addition to local taxes, the Council derives its income from markets, bus stand, slaughter houses and avenue trees.

*Devakottai Municipality* :—The Devakottai Municipality was constituted on 1st April 1937. The area of the Municipality is (in 1971) 7.4 square kilometres. Its population according to 1971 Census was 28,989. This town has been divided into 18 electoral wards. The strength of the Municipal Council (in 1971) is 20, including one reserved seat for Scheduled Caste and one reserved for women.

The Engineering establishment consists of one Engineer, one Overseer, one Maistry, etc. The total length of the roads maintained by the Municipality is (1971) 53.7 kilometres. One tourist bungalow is being maintained by the Municipality.

The number of schools maintained by the Council is (in 1971) 8, out of which 3 are higher elementary and the rest elementary. Except one higher elementary school (in VI Ward) all the other schools are housed in rented buildings only.

The Council maintains one Maternity centre and one Ayurvedic Hospital. The Municipality is maintaining an anti-mosquito staff consisting of one Field Assistant and 6 anti-malaria mazdoors. The cess pools, stagnant water and other collections of waste water were treated with mosquito control oil to control mosquito breeding. A compost depot is maintained at Hanumanthagudi on the river bank. There was no protected water supply system in the town. But the Council maintained a water lorry and water was supplied through this lorry to the public in needy localities.

A reservoir has been constructed under Pilot Water Supply Scheme and water is being supplied through taps. Besides, there were 8 bore wells from where, the water is supplied through pipes. There are 43 public fountains provided for distribution in street in certain localities. Further bore wells have been sunk in 10 places out of which ground level reservoir has been constructed under drought relief works in three bore wells and water is supplied through reservoir to the public of that locality. The construction work of overhead tank in the remaining bore wells has been attended to by Public Health Engineering and Municipal works. Under the scheme of providing protected water supply to the Devakottai Town, estimate has been prepared by the Chief Engineer, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board for Rs. 15.50 lakhs and the Government have made arrangements to finance for the scheme through Life Insurance Corporation and the work is under investigation by the Public Health Engineering Department. Apart from local taxes the Council derives its income from market, bus-stand, slaughter house and avenue trees. The bus-stand is maintained on a rented site. The Council has under taken two town planning schemes.

*Rajapalayam Municipality*:—Rajapalayam was constituted into a Municipality on 1st October 1940. The present (in 1971) area of the Municipality is 11.4 square kilometres.

According to the Census of 1971, the population of this town was 86,946. The strength of the Municipal Council is (1971) 32. The town has been divided into 29 electoral wards.

The Engineering establishment consists of one Municipal Engineer, one Public Works Supervisor, etc. The Municipality maintains one higher elementary school and two elementary schools. Out of the three schools, that are maintained by the Council, one is housed in a building owned by the Council. The Municipal Council maintains 5 Maternity Centres and a Maternity Home with 6 beds. There is also one Siddha Vaidya Dispensary run by the Municipality.

The Municipality maintains a total length of 58.5 kilometres of roads. A tourist bungalow is also maintained by the Municipality.

Till recently there was no protected water supply system in the town and the needs of the inhabitants were met with by the 42 wells, that were in the town. Sanction has been granted now for protected water supply system and initial work is being done. It is planned to utilise the water from the *Ayyanar Mudangiyar* situated in the Western Ghats, about 8 miles from the town.

The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 81 lakhs. Pilot water supply has been given through pipes directly from the headworks. The total number of public fountains provided is 223. The construction of summer storage tank by the Public Health Engineering Department is in progress. The entire water supply scheme is financed by the Municipality out of its funds and loans. House Service Connections were given from June 7, 1971. The total number of house connections in the Municipal area in 1971 was 722, of which 32 were metered and 690 unmetered. The daily supply of water was 15 gallons per head per day,

The Council has drawn out six town planning schemes. Of these, four schemes were sanctioned by the Government.

In addition to the usual local taxes, the council derives its income from market, slaughter house and bus-stand.

*Aruppukkottai Municipality*:—Aruppukkottai Town was constituted into a Municipality from 1st April 1948. The Municipality was upgraded from Grade III to Grade II in February 1953. The area of the Municipality (as in 1971) is 14 square kilometres. It is divided into (in 1971) 28 electoral wards. The population figure as per 1971 Census was 62,227.

The present (in 1971) strength of the Council is 32 of which two seats are reserved for women and two for Scheduled Castes. The Council maintains 51.7 kilometres of roads. It also maintains a tourist bungalow. The Engineering establishment of the Council consists of one Municipal Engineer, one Public Works Supervisor, one Public Works Draftsman, etc.

The Municipality maintains six elementary schools. One school among these six is a higher elementary school. A high school, which was started in 1958, is also maintained.

The Municipality maintains a Siddha Vaidya Dispensary. Three Maternity Centres are run during the year 1970-71. There is no protected water-supply system in Aruppukottai. A scheme costing over Rs. 65 lakhs is under execution. The Council earns sizable revenue from market, bus-stand, and slaughter house. It also maintains 3 parks for the benefit of the citizens. The Council has taken up 14 town planning schemes to extend the town.

*Virudhunagar Municipality:*—The Virudhunagar Municipality was constituted on October 1, 1915 and was raised to the status of a first grade Municipality in 1956.

The area of the Municipality is 6.4 square kilometres. The population of the town as per 1971 Census was 61,904. The strength of the Municipal Council is (in 1971) 32. The town has been divided into 29 electoral wards.

The Engineering establishment of the Municipality consists of a Municipal Engineer, 3 Supervisors, one Draftsman, etc. The total length of roads maintained by this Municipality is (in 1971) 43.8 kilometres. The Council maintains a tourist bungalow adjoining the trunk road which passes through the town. There are six suites of rooms. A well equipped choultry and a set of travellers room is on the Railway Feeder Road near the Railway Station. There are ten rooms in the choultry. Besides, there is also a poor man's choultry building attached to the Municipal choultry, within its compound mainly intended for the pilgrims from North called *Bairavis*. The Council also maintains a Beggar House. Meals packets each containing 12 ounces were supplied daily twice to each beggar admitted to the House.

The total number of elementary schools maintained by the Council is 9. All of them are higher elementary schools. Six out of the nine schools are housed in buildings owned by the Municipality.

The Council maintains two high schools, one for boys and one for girls. Both the schools are housed in buildings owned by the Municipality. The Council maintains two public libraries out of which one is meant for ladies. Besides, six other reading rooms in buildings owned by the Municipality is also maintained.

The Council maintains a Siddha dispensary. There are five Municipal Maternity Centres located in different parts of the town.



Besides, two Maternity Homes with 18 beds are also maintained by the Council.

One bus-stand with lodging houses is being maintained by this Municipality. One choultry, dhoby-kana are also being maintained by this Municipality.

The town has protected water supply scheme which was originally designed to meet the requirements of a population of 45,000. The source of water supply is from *Arjuna* river situated at a distance of 12 miles on Virudhunagar-Sivakasi road. It consists of an infiltration gallery and suction *cum* collection well. The Government have accorded sanction for the scheme of improvements to the water supply at an estimated cost of Rs. 53 lakhs which has now been revised to Rs. 73.44 lakhs. So far a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government as loan towards execution of the scheme and remitted to the Public Health Engineering Division and the work is in progress.

The Government have sanctioned the execution of the temporary water supply scheme from Kariseri Kalquarry at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.80 lakhs. The work will be taken up for execution by the Public Health Engineering Department shortly on receipt of loan from Government. The total number of house service connections in 1970-71 was 750, out of which 76 were metered connections and 674 were unmetered connections.

The number of gallons of water per head per diem was 4.5 ; the cost of supplying 1,000 gallons was Rs. 4 ; the net profit earned by the Municipality was (in 1970-71) Rs. 80,773.

A comprehensive drainage scheme has recently been sanctioned. Markets, bus-stand and slaughter house are extra sources of revenue to the Municipality. There are 5 town planning schemes for this Municipality.

**Karaikkudi Municipality:**—Karaikkudi was constituted as a Municipality on May 9, 1928. The total area of the Municipality was (in 1971) 14 square kilometres. The Municipality started with 7 wards. It was increased to 12 with effect from 19th July 1929 which was further increased to the present (1971) strength of 24 from September 1952. The present (1971) strength of the Municipal Council is 28. The population of the town as per 1971 Census was 55,450.

The Engineering establishment of the Municipality consists of a Municipal Engineer, one Supervisor, one Draftman, etc. The Municipality maintains roads to a length of 64.9 kilometres and runs thirteen elementary schools and a high school. The Council also maintains a Deaf and Dumb School located in the Municipal Buildings. The present (in 1971) strength of the school is 35. It also maintains a Health Institute with provision for indoor and outdoor games. The Council has eight town planning schemes. The Council maintains 2 Maternity centres and a Maternity Home with 14 beds. The main source of water-supply to this town was from a sub-artesian well known as "Jambai Oothu". A pumping set was installed at Jambai Oothu on 23rd April 1937.

There is no comprehensive protected water supply scheme. But there are Regional Schemes serving the needs of the people. A partial protected water supply system is maintained with artesian tube wells fitted with pump sets as source and 80 public fountains. Apart from this there are 5 tube-wells fitted with pump sets and over head tanks. This provides for about 12 public fountains and 119 house service connections. Water is supplied mostly through public fountains, hence no profit to the Municipality. Improvement to the existing protected water supply scheme has been taken up at a cost Rs. 37 lakhs and so far 20 lakhs have been spent and the estimate is expected to be revised to the cost of Rs. 63 lakhs to provide 15 gallons of water per head per day. This is expected to be completed before 31st March 1973.

The total number of house connections in the municipal area in 1970-71 was 119 unmetered ; the number of gallons of water per head per day was approximately 12. From 1948 there is a Fire Service Unit in this Municipality. The Silver Jubilee of the Municipality was celebrated on 17th July 1955.

In addition to the local taxes the Council derives its income from four markets, one slaughter house and one bus-stand. The Council is also maintaining a tourist bungalow with three suites of rooms.

*Ramanathapuram Municipality*:—This Municipality was formed on April 1, 1959. The area of the Municipality is (in 1971) 13.1 square kilometres. According to the 1971 Census the population of this town was 36,121. This Municipality which is a Third Grade one has been divided into 18 electoral wards. The strength of the Municipal Council is (in 1971) 20.

The Council maintains 33.3 kilometres of roads. One Municipal Engineer Grade III, one Public Works Supervisor, etc. one Public Works Maistry, etc., are employed in the Municipality. Four elementary schools are run by the Council, out of which 2 schools have been upgraded into higher elementary schools. Only one school out of the four, is located in a building owned by the Municipality. Two others are in rented buildings and one is in a rent free private building. Besides, a girls' high school is also maintained by the Municipality. The Council is running a Public Library which contains 1,824 volumes. The reading room section gets 9 dailies, 11 weeklies, 1 fortnightly and 2 monthlies. Three Maternity Centres are maintained by the Municipality.

Protected water is being supplied through eight wells with ground level reservoir. Protected water supply scheme is still under execution.

The Council maintains a weekly market. Other sources of revenue, in addition to local taxes, are cart-stand, bus-stand, and slaughter house. One compost depot is also maintained by the Council.

*Sivaganga Municipality* :—This Municipality was constituted on 1st April 1965. The area of this Municipality is (in 1971) 10.2 square kilometres. The population of the town according

to the 1971 Census was 20,809. The town has been divided into 14 wards for electoral purposes. The strength of the Council is (in 1971) 16.

The Engineering establishment of this Municipality consists of one Public Works Supervisor, one Public Works Maistry etc. The length of roads maintained by the Municipality is (in 1971) 24.4 kilometres. Three elementary schools and a Maternity Centre are also maintained by the Municipality.

The protected water supply scheme is (in 1971) under execution.

Proposal for one town planning scheme has been sent to the Government and another scheme is under preparation.

*Paramagudi Municipality* :—Paramagudi and Emaneswaram Panchayats have been constituted as Paramagudi Municipality on April 1, 1964. This is a III-Grade Municipality. The area of this Municipality is (in 1971) 13 square kilometers (5 square miles). The population of the town according to the 1971 Census was 48,884. The town has been divided into 22 electoral wards. The strength of the Council is (in 1969-70) 24.

The Engineering establishment of this Municipality consists of one Public Works Supervisor, one Public Works Maistry, etc. The length of the roads maintained by the Municipality is (in 1969-70) 25.03 kilometres. No tourist bungalow or rest house is maintained by Municipality since the Highways and Rural Works Department maintains one. Six junior basic schools, one senior basic school and one higher elementary school are maintained (in 1969-70) by the Council. Out of the 8 schools maintained by the Municipality 5 schools are located in the Municipal buildings. The Council maintains one Public Library. 3 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are (in 1969-70) run by the Municipality.

The town has protected water supply system. The main source of water is *Vaigai* river which has sub-soil water only. During summer six spring-tubs are provided in the river and watchmen are appointed to regulate the public taking water from sub-soil springs. 65 public fountains are provided in this town. There are 996 house service connections among which 36 connections are metered. The meters are owned by the parties. A sum of Rs. 62,722.20 is realised as excess water charges during the year 1969-70.

Water is also supplied by 3 over head tanks in Paramagudi and one over head tank in Emaneswaram.

Other sources of revenue in addition to local taxes are the markets, bus-stand, slaughter houses and the the avenue trees.

*Sattur Municipality* :—This Municipality was constituted with effect from January 17, 1970. The area of the Municipality is (in 1971) 10.4 square kilometers (4 square miles.) The population was 22,222 as per the 1971 Census. The town has been divided into 15 electoral wards. The Engineering establishment consists of a Municipal Overseer, one Water Works Overseer, 3 Electricians (II Grade), etc. This Municipality is maintaining 20.3 kilometres of roads, streets and lanes.

The Municipality does not maintain any schools. There are 4 higher elementary schools and 5 primary schools under the management of private persons. The Panchayat Union Council continues to maintain 2 primary schools in this town. Besides, there are three privately managed Government aided high schools. A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by the Municipality. 4 clinics are providing medical aid to the public in addition to the one Government Hospital. This Municipality continues to maintain the Isolation Shed provided in the Government Hospital itself.

The town has protected with water supply from *Vaipar* river. There are 52 public fountains provided at different parts of the town; 75 new water supply connections were given during the year 1970-71 making the total connection to 977. The town is protected with a underground drainage scheme. Almost all parts of the town are covered up in the drainage scheme. This Municipality has maintained one park named "S. R. Park" apart from the small park in the water supply pumping station and water supply service reservoir.

No tourist bungalow is maintained by this Municipality. But the following *Chatram* buildings are under the control of this Municipality.

1. Nenmeni Chatram.
2. L. F. Chatram.

Other sources of revenue, in addition to local taxes are bus-stand, slaughter house and markets.

*Panchayats*:—Though from time immemorial, there have been some kind of village assembly in Tamilnad, the origin of the present Panchayat system can be traced back to the Regulation No. 25 of 1802. This Act gave official recognisance to the office of *Karnam* in villages and provided for its continuance. In 1816, the village headman was declared the village munsif and thus a new office was created in the village level. These munsifs were given judicial authority over cases involving a maximum value of Rs. 10. He was also empowered to convene an assembly, Panchayat as it later came to be called, in order to settle local disputes. This step brought down to a great extent the expenses involved in litigation. The village munsif also tried criminal cases of minor nature.

The year 1881, marked a turning point in the evolution of Panchayat system. In that year the Government of India declared that the considerable amount of Revenue and their expenditure retained in the hands of Provincial Governments might be transferred to the local management. It was laid down that the area of each local authority which is vested with the village Panchayats should be so limited has to evoke local interest and to facilitate increase in administrative efficiency and local knowledge. For this purpose, X. Stokes, Collector of Salem District, recommended the establishment of Panchayat Unions. The Committee on Local Self Government considered this suggestion and expressed the view that the powers of ancient village communities could be revived by

creating Panchayat Unions. The Government accepted the suggestion and provided for the establishment of Panchayat Unions in each revenue village in the Local Board's Act of 1884. There was however, serious opposition from various quarters. But the Act was enforced. This Act constituted unions which were more in the nature of townlets than villages<sup>1</sup>.

This system did not apply to all villages and a vast majority of them were left unattended. The union boards were formed for single villages or groups of villages called Unions whose number should not be less than 5. The headmen of the villages constituting the Union were made the *ex-officio* members of the Board and one of the headmen was to be appointed Chairman. The members were to be either nominated fully by the Government or partly nominated by the Government and partly elected by the tax-payers. The duties of these boards were similar to those of municipalities.

In the year 1920, the Government of India agreeing with the Decentralisation Commission advised the State Governments to increase the scope of functions of the panchayats. As a result in the same year, the Madras Village Panchayats Act was passed. But the panchayats that were constituted under this Act could not thrive due to lack of finance and the necessary powers to execute the works. The provincial organisation of the panchayats voiced the view that the panchayats should be constituted compulsorily. Later in 1930, the Madras Local Boards Act was amended bringing within its scope the panchayats constituted under the village Panchayats Act thus placing the panchayats on a same footing with the unions. The supervision and control of the panchayats was then divided between the taluk boards and subsequently passed on to the District Board (after the Taluk Boards were abolished). In 1935, new class of officers, the District Panchayat Officer, and Assistant Panchayat Officer were appointed to supervise the working of the Panchayats. However, factional strife and corruption retarded the growth of the panchayats and works of public utility were neglected. To remedy these defects, another Act was passed in 1946. This Act placed the panchayats under the control of the District Collector in regard to matters of purely local character and under Board of Revenue for general supervision. Executive Officers were appointed for panchayats. The Collector was empowered to appoint any member of the Board as President.

There were only 19 panchayat boards till the year 1920. Most of them being constituted in the year 1917. During 1939-40 there were 26 major panchayats and 168 minor panchayats. The Constitution of panchayats increased from year to year as the people evinced more interest in the local administration. The functions of the panchayats were the maintenance of village roads, culverts and bridges, the lighting of streets and public places, construction of drains, cleaning of streets, removal of rubbish, provision of public latrines, maintenance of burial and burning grounds, maintenance of drinking wells, ponds and tanks, control of threshing floors and

1. R. Mathurabuman and R. Srinivasan, *The Madras Village Panchayat Act 1950-51*, Page 4.

other communal porambokes, enforcement of vaccination and the registration of births and deaths. Some of the panchayats functioned efficiently and others remained almost inactive. The hospitals and dispensaries maintained by the panchayats served the people in panchayat areas. Some of the panchayats were maintaining panchayat schools and panchayat libraries. The financial position of most of the panchayats were reported to be not satisfactory. The levy of taxes and fees to augment the resources could not be made on account of poor economic conditions of the people.

In the year 1948, there were 27 major panchayat boards in Ramanathapuram District. These panchayats were divided into wards to facilitate civic elections. The total strength of members sanctioned for all these boards was 346 (48 reserved and 298 non reserved). Seats were also reserved for minority groups like Muslims, Indian Christians and Harijans. The District Panchayat Officer at Ramanathapuram was engaged in supervision and audit of accounts of the panchayat boards and the election of members to the panchayats. Two Deputy Panchayat Officers were assisting him. For these panchayat boards, House Tax was the main source of revenue. Profession Tax was also levied in all areas <sup>1</sup>.

In 1950, a fresh legislation was introduced and the Village Panchayats Act of 1950 was passed. This Act brought into effect far reaching changes in the realm of local self-government. This Act declared that a panchayat should be formed in every village with a population of 500 and above and where the population is less than 500, one or more villages have to be clubbed together to form a panchayat. Panchayats having a population of 5,000 and above and annual income of Rs. 10,000 and above are to be classified as Class I Panchayats and others as class II Panchayats. Every panchayat is to have not less than five and not more than fifteen members, and all the members are to be elected, but seats are to be reserved for Scheduled Castes for a period of 10 years. The term of office for the members is to be three years and franchise is to be exercised by all adults as in the case of the legislative assembly. No village officer or an officer under the Government or local board can be elected as a member. The President of the panchayat was to be elected by a direct vote of the entire electorate. The Vice-President should be elected by the members from among themselves. Executive Officers may be appointed by the Government where necessary by notification. He is to carry out the resolutions passed by the panchayat, but where the President thinks that any resolution is in excess of the powers of the panchayat or is likely to endanger human life or health or public safety the Executive Officer should refer the matter to the Government whose decision is to be final. The Government may dissolve or supersede a panchayat if it fails

<sup>1</sup> G.O. No. 724, Local Administration, dated 28th March 1950.

to do its duty, while the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards may suspend or cancel a resolution or remove a President, a Vice-President or a member in case of misconduct.

*The Salient features of Panchayat Finance:*—The financial scheme of the panchayat and panchayat unions incorporated in the Madras Panchayat Act, 1958 were worked out by a sub-Committee, especially appointed for the purpose by the State Legislature Committee on Local Administration. The report of the Sub-Committee is an important document<sup>1</sup>. The scheme evolved is based on the assessment of the present level of expenditure by panchayats and the now defunct district boards in the State and the estimation therefrom of the increased financial resources which should be made available if “reasonable” provision must be made as required by the Act for mandatory functions allotted to the panchayat administration and if some margin is also to be available for performing discretionary functions. The allocation of financial resources is worked out in consonance with the scheme of allocation of functions. All existing sources of local taxation and revenue allotted to the now defunct district boards and panchayats are continued in favour of panchayat unions and panchayats without any decrease and subject only to consolidation and simplification in certain respects. Besides, additional resources are also made available in several ways like the provisions for the levy of special tax on agriculture lands [see 119 (3) of the Panchayats Act, 1958]. Every panchayat union is in charge of one Panchayat Development Block and hence the personnel and financial resources brought together under the National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development as well as other related development schemes of the Third Five-Year Plan are entrusted to it. As a condition of such entrustment, the State Government have stipulated that every panchayat union (along with the constituent panchayats) should formulate a Panchayat Development Schematic Budget for the block in its charge for the Third Five-Year Plan period so as to fit in with the Third Five-Year Plan period of the State. The Panchayat union is also required to accept full responsibility for mobilising a definite share of the required financial resources from within the block. Within the frame work of the Block Plan, the Panchayat union and its constituent panchayats should frame Development Programme to cover all aspects of rural development especially the two main national purposes, i.e., of increasing food production progressively from year to year so as to keep pace with the growth of population and bring under control the growth of population. To carry out, to co-ordinate and to streamline the new system of Panchayat Finance in the State a Director of Panchayat Finance has also been appointed at the State level in the Rural Development and Local Administration Department of the State Secretariat.

1. Perspective Budget of Panchayat Raj Administration Report of the Local Finance Sub-Committee on Local Administration, Government of Madras, 1958.

Thus the establishment of Panchayat Raj in the State has ushered in a new era of planned development through democratically elected representatives. It has revived the ancient rural institutions and enabled them to tackle local problem energetically and with a large measures of understanding. In short it has revolutionised the outlook of the people, encouraging them to shed a good part of the individual interest for the common good of the village as a whole.

In Ramanathapuram District, there are 1,286 panchayats among which 24 are town panchayats. The rest are village panchayats. These panchayats are responsible for the construction and repair of roads, bridges, culverts, drains, etc., for the lighting of the public places, for the cleaning of the streets, for the removal of the rubbish, for the construction of public latrines and the maintenance of burning ghats and burial grounds.

The Presidents of these panchayats form the Panchayat Union Council of a block. In Ramanathapuram District there are 32 blocks. In October 1960, to begin with, seven panchayat unions were created. Subsequently in April 1961, sixteen panchayat unions and in October, same year, nine panchayat unions were created. These panchayat unions are responsible for the maintenance of Panchayat union roads, hospitals, maternity centres, primary education, malaria prevention, veterinary hospitals, etc. Much of the powers and responsibilities of the district board was passed on to the panchayats by the Act of 1950. This decentralisation of powers is meant to tackle local problems more easily and quickly.

The following is the list of panchayat unions in Ramanathapuram District :—

1. Srivilliputtur; 2. Watrap; 3. Rajapalayam; 4. Vembakottai; 5. Sivakasi;
6. Sattur; 7. Virudhunagar; 8. Aruppukkottai; 9. Kanapatti; 10. Tiruchuli;
11. Nankkudi; 12. Kamuli; 13. Kadaladi; 14. Mudukulattur; 15. Mantapam;
16. Tirupullani; 17. Ramanathapuram; 18. Bogalur; 19. Paramagudi;
20. Ilayangudi; 21. Tiruppuvanam; 22. Manamadurai; 23. Sivaganga;
24. Kalaiyar Koil; 25. Tiruppattur; 26. Singampunari; 27. Kallal;
28. Sakthottai; 29. Devakottai; 30. Kannangudi at Devakottai; 31. Rajasingamangalam; 32. Tiruvadanai.



## CHAPTER XV.

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

This District has low percentage of literacy. But compared to the other districts of the State the percentage (32.1) of literacy is heartening. The Census of 1961 has registered a significant rise in the rate of literacy in the District. The female literacy has doubled in a decade (1951-61). However, the District has a literary tradition as old as the history of Tamil literature itself. Madurai, the seat of the three Tamil Sangams was not far off and in fact was the capital of the power that assumed over lordship of the Marava Country for a very long period. Naturally the Marava Country as a part of the Pandiyan Country, contributed its own literary celebrities to the Sangams. Poets such as Okkur Masathiar, Kanian Poongundranar and Boothapandiyan were the celebrities of Sangam age who hailed from the Marava Country and their poems have been included in the Anthologies. Srivilliputtur has been a centre of religious learning. The epic *Mahabharatham* was rendered in poetic verses by Sarva Bhava Iyyengar known as popularly as Villiputhur who was residing at this place. There is a tradition that poet Kambar spent the evening of his life in the District and a spot in Nattarasankottai perpetuates the memory of the great poet. Ottakuthar the contemporary of Pugalendi is believed to have born in a place called Malari near Rajasingamangalam. Pariperumal one of the ten commentators of the *Kural* is said to hail from Tenu seluvai of this District. Alavandar, the author of *Vaistitam*, Perumbetra Puliyur Nambi, the author of *Tirualavai Udaiyar Tiru Vilayadal*, Pattinathar the great Saiva Saint and the author of a number of works in Tamil and Saint Thayumanavar belonged to this District. And Ilayangudi Maruthanar was a native of Ilayangudi and Peria Alwar and Andal the famous Vaishnavite hymnists belonged to Srivilliputtur.

Reference has been made, in the literary history of the District to Javvadu Pulavar who during the period of Tirumalai Sethupathy composed a poem in praise of goddess *Rajeswari* called *Rajarajeswari Pancharatnam*. The recitation of the work quickened the recovery of the diseased Tirumalai Sethupathi. He also composed the *Mohideen Andavar Pillai Tamil*. The poet belonged to Rameswaram a village in the District. Poet Padikkasu Thambiran, a luminary of the late 17th century was another Muslim poet of renown. His patron and benefactor was one Seethakkathi alias Periathambi Marakkayar who was a merchant of immense wealth and status at Kilakkarai. A contemporary of Padikkasu Pulavar was Umaru Pulavar, a native of Kilakkarai, who composed the

masterpiece *Seerappuranam*. He was patronised by Syed Kader Marakkayar and his merit was recognised by the Sethupathy. The tradition of composing poems was ably carried on by a host of minor poets such as Chokkanathapulavar, Mambalakavirayar, Arunachala Kavirayar and Mahavidwan Meenakshisundaram Pillai.

Ramanuja Kavirayar who may be considered a pioneer in the field of editing and publishing Tamil literatures had the distinction of being tutor in Tamil to European scholars as Thompson Clarke, G. U. Pope and Winslow. The famous Winslow dictionary was the product of Ramanuja Kavirayar's collaboration with the European. And G. U. Pope in his translation of the *Tirukkural* acknowledges the help he received from Ramanuja and also pays a glowing tribute to the Pandit's dazzling scholarship <sup>1</sup>.

The Rajas of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga were great patrons of learning and supported poets and men of letters at their Courts. The establishment of Madurai Tamil Sangam in 1901 was mainly due to the munificent grants and lasting efforts of Panditurai thevar and this institution, has during the last sixty-three years rendered incalculable service for the revival of interest in Tamil literatures.

A list of Tamil poets and savants of Tamil literature who lived in the District at different times and rendered worthy service for the spread of Tamil learning is given here to refresh the memory of the readers :

## LIST OF TAMIL POETS.

| <i>Names of poet.</i>  | <i>Place of birth.</i>  | <i>Works made.</i>   | <i>Special features of art.</i> |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| (1)  | (2)   | (3)  | (4)                             |
| 1 <i>Pisirandaiyar</i> ..  | Pisirkudi near Alanganur ..   | <i>Purananoru</i> ..   | ....                            |
| 2 <i>Nallandaiyar</i> ..   | (Tiru) Kottiyur ..  | <i>Nartinas</i> No. 211 ..   | ....                            |
| 3 <i>Selvanambi</i> ..   | Do. ..  | ....   | ....                            |
| 4 <i>Tirukkottiyur Nambi</i> ..                                    | Do. ..  | ....   | ....                            |
| 5 <i>Nannullaiyar</i> ..   | Allur near Sivaganga ..   | <i>Kurunthogai</i> 32; <i>Nedunthogai</i> 46 ..  | ....                            |
| 6 <i>Naganar</i> ..  | Vellaikudi near Tiruvagampet. ..                                    | <i>Nartinas</i> 158 ..   | ....                            |
| 7 <i>Masethiyar</i> ..   | Okkur near Tirukoshaiyur ..   | Several poems in <i>Kurunthogai</i> and <i>Nedunthogai</i> . ..  | ....                            |
| 8 <i>Pullangadar</i> ..  | Thiruppullani ..  | <i>Kannilai</i> in <i>Pattinakeelkanakku</i> ..  | ....                            |
| 9 <i>Ottakoothar</i> ..  | Melari near Rajasingamangalam (also one Melari is in Chole-nad). .. | <i>Thakkayaga Purani</i> , <i>Mevar Ula</i> , <i>Ettis Echeipadhu Kulothungan Pillai Tamil</i> , etc. .. | ....                            |
| 10 <i>Nallasiriyar</i> ..  | Manakudi ..   | <i>Uraiyasiriyar</i> for several Tamil works ..  | ....                            |
| 11 <i>Pariperumal</i> ..   | Thensiluvai ..  | <i>Uraiyasiriyar</i> for <i>Kural</i> ..   | ....                            |
| 12 <i>Sevvai Sooduvar</i> ..                                       | Vembartur ..  | <i>Bhagavatha Puranam</i> ..   | ....                            |
| 13 <i>Alavandar</i> ..   | Veerasholanur ..  | <i>Vasitanool</i> ..   | ....                            |
| 14 <i>Madavappattiar</i> alias <i>Perum-patepuliyyar</i> Nambi, .. | Do. ..  | <i>Tirucalarayudaiyar Tiruntaiyadai</i> ..   | ....                            |
| 15 <i>Kavirajapandithar</i> ..                                     | Do. ..  | <i>Soundararaja lahari</i> in Tamil ..   | ....                            |
| 16 <i>Perumalaiyar</i> ..  | Do. ..  | <i>Nellaikocai</i> ..  | ....                            |
| 17 <i>Samikavi Kalaruthirar</i> ..                                 | Do. ..  | <i>Alagar Pillai Tamil</i> ..  | ....                            |
| 18 <i>Kavi Kunjara Barathi</i> ..                                  | Do. ..  | <i>Alagar Kalambagam</i> ..  | ....                            |
| 19 <i>Sama Sooriyanarayana Bharathiyar</i> . ..                    | Do. ..  | <i>Siddhaguli</i> ..   | ....                            |

| <i>Name of poet.</i>                      | <i>Place of birth.</i>                | <i>Works made.</i>   | <i>Special features if any.</i>   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| (1)                                       | (2)                                   | (3)  | (4)   |
| 20 Pitchuvaigar .. ..                     | Veerasholanur .. ..                   | .....  | Siladapali .. ..  |
| 21 Son of Kaviraja Pandithar.             | Do. .. ..                             | Nellai Varuha Kovai .. ..  | .....   |
| 22 Puhazhi Koothar alias Pagalur Iyyanar. | Sannasi or Sathurvedamangalam.        | Tiruchendurpillathani and Seevakasanthamani Churukkam.   | .....   |
| 23 Aaukarayar .. ..                       | Voerai (Visavanur Kilakkarai).        | Arichandrapurana Virutham—Thandalaigar Sathagam and Thondaimadala Sathagam.                              | Patronised by Seethakathai alias Peristhambi Marakayar.   |
| 24 Umaru Pulavar .. ..                    | Do.                                   | Seerapuranam .. ..   | .....   |
| 25 Meesalayanna Kalanjiya-pulavar.        | Panaikulam near Ramana-thapuram .. .. | Vannams .. ..  | .....   |
| 26 Kandasamy Pulavar .. ..                | Kilakkarai .. ..                      | Thiruppuvana Ula and Appanur Puranam; Nondi, (drame) and one Ula on Muthu-vaduganathendran of Sivaganga. | Patronised by Seethakathai alias Peristhambi Marakayar.   |
| 27 Javvedu Pulavar .. ..                  | Emaneswaram .. ..                     | Rajarajeswari Pancharathnam Mohideen Andavar Pillathani.   | .....   |
| 28 Sarkarai Pulavar .. ..                 | .....                                 | Tiruchendurkovai Vedandaseodamani Sithantha Ural.  | Sithanthavurai was prepared on a request from Damodaran, Minister of Sethupathi.  |
| 29 Sinnasarkkarai Pulavar .. ..           | .....                                 | Mizhalaisathagam Vanduvanaiperumalooal, Tiruvadanai Chitrakavi Manjari.                                  | .....   |
| 30 Seeni Pulavar .. ..                    | .....                                 | Tirucheniter Parani Tiraisaikalambagam .. ..   | .....   |
| 31 Serukkarai Arunachala Pulavar.         | .....                                 | Ponpatricheliyannamaalooal.  | .....   |
| 32 Sarukkarai Muthukaruppa Pulavar.       | .....                                 | Vairavakadavul Pathigam .. ..  | .....   |
| 33 Alagiesitrumbala Kavirayar.            | .....                                 | Thalasingamalai .. ..  | Got Mithilaipatti as donation from Sethupathi for this song.  |
| 34 Mangaibeha Kavirayar .. ..             | .....                                 | Kodunkunra Puranam .. ..   | .....   |
| 35 Amuthakavirayar .. ..                  | .....                                 | Oruthurakottai .. ..   | Sung on Regunatha Sethupathi.   |
| 36 Kayakar .. ..                          | Rameswaram .. ..                      | Kavagura Nigandu Ramesar Kovai .. ..   | .....   |
| 37 Palapattadai Chookanatha Pulavar.      | .....                                 | Therai Ula "Virja Kovai" on Thavakanni, Minister of Sethupathi.  | Thivakanni built Somavara Madam at Rameswaram and endowed Nambuthalai. He brought Palibetam of Rajarajeswariarman from Royavelur. |

|    |   |    |                                 |    |    |   |    |    |   |
|----|---|----|---------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|---|
| 38 | Venbapuli Kavirayar                                     | .. | Sevvur                          | .. | .. | Capable of singing abusive songs                                  | .. | .. | Got Kaikakulam as donation from Rani Mangaleswari.  |
| 39 | Madurakavi  | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | ....  | .. | .. | Got Kottangachendal as donation from Sivaganga Raja.  |
| 40 | Kavikunjaramier   | .. | Perungarai                      | .. | .. | Alagarkuravanji   | .. | .. | Born blind, belongs to Sethupathi family. Got sight by worshipping Naganathur of Nainarkoil.  |
| 41 | Thalaimalaikanda Thevar.                                | .. | Karadanthakudi                  | .. | .. | Marudhur Anthathi   | .. | .. | ....  |
| 42 | Sitramalavaiya  | .. | Sirukambaiyur                   | .. | .. | Maruthur Puranam  | .. | .. | Refused to sing <i>Pullaitanai</i> on Nallathambi, brother of Minister of Ramanathapuram who died on the next day when he sang abusing him. |
| 43 | Muthukutti Pulavar                                      | .. | Parathaivayal near Salaigramam. | .. | .. | ....  | .. | .. | ....  |
| 44 | Sitrambla Desigar                                       | .. | Thirumaraikkadu                 | .. | .. | Sung on Tiruvadanai   | .. | .. | Got a title " <i>Kavi Singa Navalar</i> " from Sethupathi.  |
| 44 | Sitrambala Desigar                                      | .. | Thirumaraikkadu                 | .. | .. | Sung on Tiruvadanai   | .. | .. | Teacher of Nos 49 and 50.   |
| 45 | Perungarunai Muthazhagar.                               | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Tirukoshtur Kalambagam  | .. | .. | Taught Tamil to Tiru Thomson Clarke, Rannes, Pope and Winslo. Helped in the preparation of Winslo Dictionary.                               |
| 46 | Mambala Kavirayar                                       | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Sethupathivannam  | .. | .. | Ashtavadanai.   |
| 47 | Somasundaraguru   | .. | Ramanathapuram                  | .. | .. | Tirukazhukunda Kovai  | .. | .. | ....  |
| 48 | Ramanuja Kavirayar                                      | .. | Do.                             | .. | .. | Kandigai Urai, Athisooli Urai, Kondratenda Urai.                  | .. | .. | ....  |
| 49 | Periasaravanakavirayar                                  | .. | Mudukulattur                    | .. | .. | Panaidu Thoolhu   | .. | .. | ....  |
| 50 | Veerasami Kavirayar                                     | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Translated Athabotham into Tamil                                  | .. | .. | ....  |
| 51 | Arunachala Kavirayar, son of Periasaravana Kavirayar.   | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Song in praise of Sivaganga Raja and Kannivadi Zamindar.          | .. | .. | ....  |
| 52 | Siriya Saravana Kavirayar, son of Arunachala Kavirayar. | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Kundroi Sladai Venla, Tiruchital Anthathi, Madurayamagavanthathi. | .. | .. | ....  |
| 53 | Subramunia Kavirayar                                    | .. | Andukonden near Sivaganga       | .. | .. | Tirumanavuruvanchi on Kottathirar                                 | .. | .. | ....  |
| 54 | Malavarayanandal chami Iyer.                            | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | Perapurana Keerthanas.  | .. | .. | ....  |
| 55 | Krishnaiyengar  | .. | ....                            | .. | .. | ....  | .. | .. | ....  |

*Special features if any.*

*Wynemade.*

*Place of birth.*

*Name of poet.*

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

56 Muthusemi Iyengar, father  
of M. Ragavaiyanagar.

*Chandrellogam Manavalajumini-moor Irandai  
Noortrettu, Tirupathigangal, Kurukai,  
Kalamtagam.*

Teacher of Pandithurai Thevar.  
Shown Ashtavadanam before  
Krishnaraja Udaiyar of  
Mysore in Canarese and got  
Palanquin, etc., as donation.

57 Sathani Saravansi Pulavar.  
58 Muthuvelayutha Kavirayar.  
59 Subramania Kavirayar ..  
60 Karungulam Sankara Nara-  
yana Avathani.  
61 Chocku Pulavar ..  
62 Nagalinga Pulavar ..  
63 Arandekavi ..  
64 Maslamani Pandaram ..  
65 Avidalnathar ..  
66 Periamuthumariappa Kavi-  
rayar.  
67 Siria Muthumarappe Kavi-  
rayar.  
68 Tiruppattur Valasaraswathi.  
69 Velayutha Kavirayar ..  
70 Muthuveerappa Kavirayar.  
71 Narasimma Bharathi ..  
72 Arumuga Navalar ..  
73 Roju Sasthigal ..

All these poets were patronised  
by Sethupathis with  
contribution of money for  
their activities.

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....

Do.

**The Pial schools:**—The education of children in three R's were imparted in the indigenous pial schools of which there were many. Almost every village had a pial school under a village school master known in Tamil as *Vathiar*. The pial schools were generally conducted on the front pial of village *chavadi* or the public hall of the village or, if such public places are not available, at the residence of the school master. Sometimes it was located in the porch of a temple, in a *mandapam*. The bulk of pupils attending these schools consist of children of peasants who do not wish for any high academic attainments for their children, but only ability to read and write and have rudimentary knowledge of literature especially Tamil devotional literature like *Thevaram*, etc. Ordinarily the children joined the school in their fourth year and left the school about 2 or 3 years of schooling and by all means the education is all over by their 10th year when they begin to earn their mite and contribute to the meagre earnings of their parents. They learnt the lessons by rote and by practicing writing on the sand. After attaining some skill in writing on the sand, the pupils are trained to write on slate and then on the palmyra leaf with a sharp nail like instrument. The habit of writing with pen and paper comes later on and that too if the parents supply paper and other writing requirements. By this training the pupils possessed a good handwriting and powers to solve arithmetical problems by memory.

**The Sanskrit and Veda Schools:**—In addition to the pial school there were *vedic* schools all over the District. The Ramanathapuram town had been a centre of Sanskrit learning from very ancient period. The Sanskrit School at Ramanathapuram was located in a decent and spacious building called Baskara Patasala (School) after the name of the Zamindar. This school had a widespread reputation of being the best of its kind. The teachers were scholars of great repute and they were provided with accommodation and grants of land for their maintenance. Most of the schools were residential. Free boarding and lodging were provided to all pupils. The students were admitted after a strict enquiry about their competence. They were taught two *vedas*, viz., *Yujur Veda* (treating of religious rites and prayers in prose) and *Sama Veda* (treating of prayers composed in metre) and in *Kavya* (poems), *Tarka* (logic) and *Vyakarnah* (grammar). The Vedas were memorised. In some schools *Tiruvoimozhi* was included in the course of studies. In these types of institutions there was close association between the teacher and the taught and the student learnt more by emulating the teacher than by subjecting himself to regular pedagogic discourses. The teachers and the pupils also rendered help in the due performance of worship and ceremonies in the important temples on festive occasions and followed the procession reciting *Vedas* while the deity was taken round. The Sethupathis of the first two periods (1604-1674 ; 1674-1765) encouraged this traditional education imparted through *vedic* schools.

*The Role of Schoolmaster In Discipline and Welfare Activities.—*

In ancient days the village schoolmaster held an important place in the society. He had a definite place assigned to him in the village economy, in the same manner as headman, the accountant, the watchman and the artisan. A number of subsidiary offices were entrusted on him which further enhanced his importance. He was able to combine fortune-telling, astrology and document writing and performing religious rites among his prosaic function of the teacher which not only made him an indispensable factor in rural life but also endeared him to one and all of the rural folk. Since most of the schools had a single master, the village community paid him either by rent free lands or by assignments of grains out of the village harvest. The economic condition of the schoolmaster in an indigenous village school was a precarious one. He lived on a small income from fees supplemented by the shares in the village produce. Moreover the poverty of indigenous school rendered it impossible for the schoolmaster to provide assistance for himself by appointment of additional teachers. The teacher imparted perfect discipline among the students and caning was the common punishment for the students. There was implicit obedience in the school.

*Beginnings of Western Education and Pioneer Work Done in The District:—*The honour of having taken the first tangible step towards the education and diffusion of western learning goes to the Christian Missionaries who came to the District for propagating their religion through educational institutions. The Society for the Propagation of Gospel was the earliest mission in the District to spread western education. The first High School started in Ramanathapuram country was the S.P.G. High School, located in Ramanathapuram town. Its beginnings can be traced back to the efforts made even so early as 1784 by Sullivan, the Resident of Tanjore Court and C.F. Schwartz, a missionary who had for many years, laboured in Tranquebar and Tiruchirappalli before collaborating with Sullivan in the founding of what developed into the S.P.G. High School. The school which had functioned for many years as an Anglo-Vernacular school was upgraded in 1874 into a fullfledged High School preparing students for Metriculation examination. Under the same Mission a number of schools were opened in Pamban, Mudukulattur, Uttarakosamangai and Rajasingamangalam. The Mission established two large orphanages also for the boys and girls, to provide home and education for the destitute children whose parents had perished by hunger or disease in the great famine of 1877. Besides these missionary efforts Anglo-Vernacular schools were also started in the country and some of them were founded and supported by Sethupathis<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram*, Thiruvengkatachari, S. 1959, page 114.



## EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS IMPACT IN THE DISTRICT.

It will be interesting to note a few historical landmarks of modern education in the State and its impact on the District. In 1826 Sir Thomas Munroe constituted a Board to organise the system of public instruction with authority to establish two principal schools in each Collectorate and one inferior school in each taluk<sup>1</sup>. In the Collectorate schools, English was taught as one of the languages along with the language of the District. In the taluk schools the entire teaching was to be conducted in the language of the District. The subjects taught in these schools do not appear to have been in any way different from the subjects taught in the indigenous schools. The whole aim of the scheme was the establishment of a few well-managed efficient schools so that they might be held out as models for the numerous schools which were in unsatisfactory condition. As a result of this a Collectorate school was opened at Madurai and the taluk schools were opened at Sivaganga and Paramagudi (during this period the Ramanathapuram District was a part of the Madurai District). But all these schools in this as well as in other areas were not successful.

A new era dawned in 1830, when the Court of Directors of the East India Company advocated the theory known as the filtration theory of education according to which the best results could be obtained by educating the higher classes in the first instance and leaving them to create a desire for education in the masses. Then there came the controversy as to whether English or Indian languages should be given prominence in the scheme of education. The controversy reached its climax in the famous minutes of Lord Macaulay of 1833, and the equally famous resolution of Lord William Bentinck, dated 7th March 1833 which endorsed the Minutes of Macaulay by observing that "the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and science and that all funds appropriated for the purpose of education would be spent on English education alone. As a result of this policy the taluk schools in Paramagudi and Sivaganga were abolished in 1836 and the Board of Instruction was superseded by a committee of National Education which was directed to organise normal school for training teachers for the new english schools which were to be eventually opened in the different parts of the State. This committee was shortly afterwards replaced by the University Board constituted in January 1840 by Lord Elphinstone, the then Governor of Madras. Afterwards The University Board were replaced by the University of Madras by an Act of the Legislative Council of India, dated 5th September 1857.

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<sup>1</sup> *Progress of Education in Madras State*, Director of Information and Publicity 1954, page 1.

Then came the Grants-in-aid Rules in 1855 with the aim of encouraging private enterprises in the field of education. The next important landmark was the introduction of the Town Improvement Act and the Local Board Act of 1871. These acts gave initiative to the local authorities to organise educational institutions. The year 1911 is a turning point. In this year the Government decided to subsidise the opening of new elementary schools in the village containing more than 500 inhabitants. The Madras Elementary Education Act 1921 inaugurated a new era in the history of elementary education in the province, by empowering local authorities to levy educational tax and also for the introduction of compulsion in suitable areas with the previous sanction of the provincial government. In 1932 private managements were empowered to levy fees in compulsory areas and local bodies were no longer under any obligation to compensate private managements for loss of fee income<sup>1</sup>. The tempo of educational expansion received full impetus after the attainment of independence. Expenditure on education was enhanced. Compulsory education has been envisaged by the Government. The scheme of compulsory education has been in force in about 484 villages of the District since 1961.

#### LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARD IN THE DISTRICT

According to the Census of 1961, the percentage of literate population of the District is 32.1. Of the total literate population of 7,77,559 persons in the District 209,212 persons are females. The literacy figures have recorded an appreciable rise over the last Census in the District. In 1951, the number of literates in the District was constituting 21.4 per cent of the population. The literacy has increased by 11.8 per cent during the period 1951 — 61. According to the latest Census of 1971, the total population of the District is 2,857,424. The literate population of the District is 1,129,570 persons (761,628 males and 367,947 females). The percentage of literates to total population for 1971 works out to 39.5. The percentage of male literate is 54.5 and that of female is 25.2. This literacy has increased by 7.4 percent during the last decade in the District. The following statement shows the literacy and educational standard of the District.

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<sup>1</sup> *Studies in Madras Administration*, by Dr. B.S. Baliga, Volume II, 1940, pages 64-66.

# EDUCATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

| Educational Level.                              | Total population. |           | Rural Population. |          | Urban Population. |          |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|   | Males.            | Females.  | Males.            | Females. | Males.            | Females. |
| (1)   | (2)               | (3)       | (4)               | (5)      | (6)               | (7)      |
| I. Total Population .. ..                       | 1,175,769         | 1,246,019 | 882,147           | 940,160  | 293,622           | 305,859  |
| II. Literate .. ..                              | 6,07,422          | 1,036,807 | 499,753           | 833,137  | 107,069           | 203,670  |
| III. Literate without educational level.        | 433,203           | 154,345   | 321,573           | 88,768   | 111,630           | 65,577   |
| IV. Primary or Junior Basic ..                  | 100,478           | 48,865    | 48,218            | 16,857   | 52,260            | 32,008   |
| V. Matriculation and above ..                   | 34,666            | 6,002     | 12,603            | 1,393    | 19,145            | 4,354    |
| VI. Technical Diploma not equal to degree.      | ..                | ..        | ..                | ..       | 254               | 8        |
| VII. Non-technical Diploma not equal to degree. | ..                | ..        | ..                | ..       | 72                | 5        |

## VIII. University or Post-Graduate Degree.

|                      |    |    |    |    |     |     |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1. Engineering .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 133 | ..  |
| 2. Medicine .. ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 71  | 17  |
| 3. Agriculture .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35  | ..  |
| 4. Veterinary .. ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13  | ..  |
| 5. Technology .. ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9   | ..  |
| 6. Teaching .. ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 415 | 118 |
| 7. Others .. ..      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 233 | ..  |

The following table gives a comparative picture about literacy in the Districts of Tamil Nadu according to Census of India 1961.

| <i>Serial number and Name of the District.</i> | <i>Total population.</i> | <i>Number of literates to 1,000 persons.</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| (1)  | (2)                      | (3)  |
| 1. Ramanathapuram .. .. .                      | 2,421,788                | 321  |
| 2. Madras .. .. .                              | 1,729,141                | 595  |
| 3. Chingleput .. .. .                          | 2,196,412                | 279  |
| 4. North Arcot .. .. .                         | 3,146,326                | 247  |
| 5. South Arcot .. .. .                         | 3,047,973                | 267  |
| 6. Salom .. .. .                               | 3,804,108                | 199  |
| 7. Coimbatore .. .. .                          | 3,557,431                | 302  |
| 8. The Nilgiris .. .. .                        | 409,308                  | 357  |
| 9. Madurai .. .. .                             | 3,221,227                | 334  |
| 10. Tiruchirappalli .. .. .                    | 3,190,078                | 299  |
| 11. Thanjavur .. .. .                          | 3,245,927                | 335  |
| 12. Tirunelveli .. .. .                        | 2,730,279                | 364  |
| 13. Kanyakumari .. .. .                        | 996,915                  | 486  |
| 14. Tamil Nadu .. .. .                         | 33,68,953                | 314  |

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The following are the main types of schools imparting primary education in the State :—

1. Lower Elementary Schools—Standards I to V.
2. Higher Elementary Schools—Standards I to VIII.
3. Junior Basic Schools—Grades I to V.
4. Senior Basic Schools—Grades I to VIII.
5. Primary Departments of Secondary Schools—Classes I to V.
6. Primary Schools for Anglo-Indians—Standards I to V.

In the Ramanathapuram District, the Primary Schools, the Upper Primary Schools, Junior and Senior Basic Schools are the main types of schools imparting primary education. Free education is given in the primary stage. The medium of instruction is Tamil. All primary schools are run under Government auspices. Formerly, the primary stage of education consisted of five years from standards I to V followed by a course of three years, called standards VI to VIII if it formed part of or was continuation of primary school, and forms I to III, if it formed part of a secondary school. According to the recommendation of the Secondary School Education Committee, the distinction between classes and forms were done away with and they were uniformly termed as standards beginning from primary to the end of the secondary school stage. Under the revised pattern primary education was envisaged as an integrated course of seven years and a common syllabus was followed during the first seven years of schooling throughout the state. A remarkable feature of the syllabus introduced in 1960-61 was the compulsory study of English from

standard V. The Government have also prescribed uniform qualifications and scales of pay for teachers in primary schools as in other stages of education. As already seen compulsory primary education has been in force since 1961. This scheme is applicable to the age group 6-7 for both boys and girls. This scheme covered 484 villages in 1961. For the purpose of teaching English, the English teachers of Elementary schools are trained in up-to-date methods of English teaching as a result of the campaign organised by the British Council.

*School Meals And Free Clothes Distribution :—*Under the School Meals and School Improvement Schemes free supply of school meals for poor children in elementary schools has been introduced in the State since 1960, with a view to encourage poor children to study. This Scheme is largely financed by voluntary contributions in all parts of the State. This Scheme is in operation in 2,323 schools in the District. Funds for this purpose are collected from individuals as charity offerings. About 90,000 pupils in the primary schools benefit by the Midday Meals Scheme. With the expansion of the Midday Meals Scheme the attendance of children at these schools showed rapid improvement. It was found that a number of children, particularly girls, fought shy of school for want of proper clothing. Lack of suitable clothes kept away many a children, who was otherwise quite willing to attend. Hence the Department of Public Instructions went a step further and concentrated efforts have been made to organise free supply of clothing to poor children. A further development of Free Clothing Scheme has been the idea that children in receipt of free clothing should wear the same uniform. The cost of these Scheme is met by donations from the generous public.

*Extension of Elementary Education :—*Elementary education has recorded a marked progress in the District in the last decade. There were 1,381 elementary schools in the District in the year 1951. In all these schools there were 1,48,560 pupils. In 1962-63 there were 3,688 primary schools of them 2,740 were lower elementary schools, 426 were junior basic schools 407 were higher elementary schools and 115 were senior basic schools<sup>1</sup>. The following statement shows that all the villages in the Ramanathapuram District with a population of 500 and above are provided with facilities of elementary education.

| <i>Population of the village.</i> | <i>Number of villages.</i> | <i>Number of schools.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1)                               | (2)                        | (3)                       |
| Above 2,000 .. .. .               | 92                         | 92                        |
| Between 2,000 to 1,000 .. .. .    | 130                        | 130                       |
| Between 1,000 to 500 .. .. .      | 188                        | 188                       |
| Between 500 to 200 .. .. .        | 962                        | 563                       |
| Less than 200 .. .. .             | ..                         | ..                        |

<sup>1</sup> Statistics are furnished by the Director of Public Instruction.

### *Basic Schools.*

The Scheme of Basic Education was first propounded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1937 with the main objective of replacing the traditional academic and book centred education by a new system where the learning is correlated with the physical and social environment of the pupils. This is now the accepted pattern of educational system at the elementary level. This system visualised that the different subjects of the curriculum should not be taught in isolation but in close correlation with one another as also with craft work and an all round development of the individual personality leading to the evolution of a new community. It also emphasises the development of qualities which would help the child to grow into a useful and self-reliant citizen capable of making his contribution to the creation of socialistic and democratic pattern of society which the nation has set before itself. Under this system, education is imparted through socially useful productive activities like spinning, weaving, gardening, carpentry etc. Realising the importance of basic schools, the State Government have started many basic schools in various places. Spinning and weaving as the main crafts and gardening as the subsidiary craft are taught in these schools. The equipment for craft training and initial raw materials are supplied free by the Education Department, to all basic schools. The school deposits either the entire finished products or the value of such products as were sold together with the unsold products in the Government Craft Equipment stores.

*The Main Features of Basic Education:*—Basic education is conceived mainly to promote in the student a love for normal work and some skill in a craft which may be of use to him if he has to stop the education in the middle instead of merely cramping his mind with bookish knowledge. His initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness are thus stimulated and these qualities will be much in demand as the child advances in age. The duration of basic education has been fixed now as eight years. The academic content of eight year course is no longer intended to reach the Matriculation level. It is recognised that a further course of three years (called the post basic course) would be necessary in order to attain that level.

The distinctive method of correlated teaching employed in basic schools arouses curiosity, develops mental alertness and the habit of original thinking unlike the schools which fills the minds of young children with all scraps and pieces of information without ever attempting to stimulate true enthusiasm for knowledge. The development of character and citizenship training are much more systematically provided for in the organisation and methods of work under basic education. The school functions as a co-operative community and the pupils take part in rendering service to the school community. Such activities are practically non-existent in the conventional elementary schools.

The fundamental feature in the curriculum in basic system is that students should imbibe ideals of citizenship. The basic school gives practical training in social behaviour, affords opportunities for the close observation of local social life and during the course the students also get to know about other regions and their customs. Social training and social studies go hand in hand. During the various grades the students are taught the main outlines of the history of their motherland, its social, cultural, religious political and economic aspects. The syllabus ends with a study of the contribution of religion to world culture.<sup>1</sup>

It was also found that the teachers of the primary schools should be given special training, in order to equip them to teach in basic schools. A course of study for a period of five months has been drawn up. Special seminars and conferences are also held to re-train the officers of the Education Department and also to inform them about the special training. After the completion of the course of training the trained teachers are posted in the various basic education centres.

Based on the recommendations of the Aryanayagam Committee, the Government however, decided that there should be no further expansion in basic education and the scheme of conversion of Elementary Schools into Basic Schools has been deferred from 1962-1963 onwards. Since this scheme has been dropped and also as most of the teachers have been re-trained, the Scheme of Re-orientation Training to Elementary School Teachers has been deferred from 1963-1964.<sup>2</sup>

**Secondary Education:**—Generally Secondary Education is imparted in the following types of institution in the state :—

- (i) Secondary or High Schools (Indian), Standards I to XI.
- (ii) Upper Primary Schools (Indian), Standards I to VIII.
- (iii) High Schools (Anglo-Indian), Standards I to XI.
- (iv) Upper Primary Schools (Anglo-Indian) Standards I to VIII.
- (v) Post Basic Schools —Grades I to XI.
- (vi) Public Schools—Kindergarten I to XI classes.

Besides these, there are also matriculation schools affiliated to the University of Madras. The secondary schools are classified either as boys' schools or girls' schools. Boys above the age of 12 are not admitted into the girls' schools. Girls may be admitted into boys' schools in the areas where there are no girls' schools, but the management should make adequate arrangements for the convenience necessary for them and where there is an initial enrolment

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Eileen Varma—*Basic Education in India, Its Origin and Development* 1963, pages 137-138.

<sup>2</sup> Source : Third Five-Year Plan—Madras State. Review of Progress During 1961-1962 to 1964-1965 and Programme for 1965-1966, Published in 1965, Pages 138-139.

of girls the management should appoint women teachers. As in the case of primary schools, secondary schools are also either under the management of the Government or of private agencies. The secondary schools (Indian) may have all or any of the standards in the primary stage or they may have standards VI to XI. At the end of the standard XI the students appear for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination. As on 1st August 1964 there were in the District 170 high schools for boys and 22 high schools for girls, and the total number of pupils who received education in the secondary schools was 68,934 of which 58,761 were boys and 10,173 girls.

*The Syllabus And Medium of Instruction:*—Previously the pattern of secondary education consisted of forms I to VI leading to a Public Government examination at the end of the course.

Based on the recommendation of the Secondary School Education Commission a revised pattern of secondary course enriching the content of secondary education by adding one more class to the high school and making a higher secondary course of 11 years duration was introduced from 1959—60.

In their order Ms. No. 683, Education, dated 25th April 1963, the Government have revised the pattern of School Education and laid down that the school course in this State will consist of an integrated course of eleven years covering standards I to XI which is to be designed as follows :—

|                      |    |    |    |                |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----------------|
| Standards I to V     | .. | .. | .. | Primary.       |
| Standards VI to VIII | .. | .. | .. | Upper Primary. |
| Standards IX to XI   | .. | .. | .. | Secondary.     |

This revised pattern is introduced in place of the previous pattern, which consisted of an integrated course of elementary education of seven years covering standards I to VII and the first three years of a higher secondary course of standards VII to XI. Consequently, in 1963-64 the new standard VIII was introduced and the three high school standards VIII, IX and X were renumbered as IX, X and XI respectively.

The medium of instruction with all classes of Indian secondary schools is ordinarily in the regional language. And the linguistic minorities also have been given the right to educate their children through their own mother tongue, provided there is a minimum strength of 45 such pupils in the three standards IX to XI.



## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The revenue district of Ramanathapuram has been trifurcated into educational districts with the headquarters of Madurai, Devakottai and Virudhunagar for the purpose of educational administration. The head of the Education Department is the District Educational Officer who is under the immediate control of the Divisional Inspector of Schools. The Divisional Inspector of Schools directs the District Educational Officer of the region in carrying out the policies of the Education Department and has direct control over all high schools, training schools and special schools in the District. The Divisional Inspector of Schools is under the control of the Director of Public Instruction. The jurisdiction of the three educational districts are as follows :—

### 1. RAMANATHAPURAM CENTRAL AT MADURAI.

Aruppukkottai, Mudukulattur and Sivaganga taluks.

### 2. RAMANATHAPURAM EAST AT DEVAKOTTAI.

Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi taluks.

### 3. RAMANATHAPURAM WEST AT VIRUDHUNAGAR.

Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks.

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

University Education is being imparted in the District through the various colleges affiliated to the Madurai University. All the Colleges in the Ramanathapuram District were affiliated to the Madras University till the establishment of the Madurai University. The Madurai University was founded in 1966. The Governor of Madras is the Chancellor of the University and the Minister for Education in the State is the Pro-chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor is the principal academic executive head of the University. He is appointed by the Chancellor from among the panel of three names of persons elected by majority vote by the members of the senate of the University. There are seven Arts colleges in the District affiliated to the University of which five are men's colleges and two are women's colleges. A brief account of the various colleges offering university education in the District is given below.

**Alagappa College, Karaikkudi:**—Alagappa College is one of the oldest colleges of the District. The College owes its origin to the munificent donation of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar an industrialist of Karaikkudi. The College started functioning in 1947 with 149 students on its roll. The first three years from the first phase in the development of the College marked by an uninterrupted work of construction and the strength of the College was steadily increasing year after year ; and it stood at 763 in 1950-51. Consequent on the reorganisation of the course of studies, the University granted affiliation for Pre-University Course with a strength of 480 students. The new course began functioning from June 1956. From July 1958, this institution is offering two year post-graduate course in Tamil. The following courses are offered in this college :—

Pre-University Course.

Bachelor of Arts (three years—new regulation) Degree Course.

Bachelor of Science (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Geology).

Bachelor of Commerce (Insurance as optional subject).

Master of Arts (Tamil).

**Raja Duraisingam Memorial College, Sivaganga:**—The Raja of Sivaganga, Srinathu Muthu Vijaya Raghunatha Govinda Vallaba Duraisinga Shanmuga Raja founded this College in Memory of his father on August 11, 1947 and named it as Raja Duraisingam Memorial College. After a reverse destined to experience in 1950 due to the abolition of zamindari system, it gained an impetus in July 1951 admitting students for intermediate and B.A. humanities. In June 1952, it moved to a new building and began offering intermediate and science courses as well. In 1953, adequate hostels were built. In 1960, the College was further affiliated in B.Sc. Chemistry. The following courses are offered in the institution :—

Pre-University Course.

Bachelor of Arts.

Bachelor of Science.

**Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars' Senthilkumara Nadar College, Virudhunagar:**—This College came into existence on 11th August 1947 to meet with the increasing need of university education in the District. The Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars' Association took over the responsibility encouraged by the generous donation offered by Senthilkumara Nadar after whom the College has been named. This is gradually flourishing as first grade College in the District. The following courses are offered in this institution:

Pre-University Course.

Bachelor of Arts.

Bachelor of Science (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Zoology as main subjects).

Bachelor of Commerce.

The College also has a department of Physical Education. The college has a senior division N.C.C. Rifles. It also runs hostels with adequate facilities for the students.

*Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi.*—Founded by a successful industrialist, Thiru P. Ayya Nadar, this is a rural college, catering for a large population in and around Sivakasi. The College is run out of the income of the Janaki Ammal Ayya Nadar Trust. The management is vested in a committee, called the “Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College Committee” with the founder of the College as the President and his sons and two ex-officio members, the Principal and a University Representative, as members. The motto of the College is “Pro deo atet patria”— ‘For God and Country’.

The College was inaugurated on the 28th June 1963. It has finished a year of active and successful work. Prominence is given in this institution to Physical Education. Residence in the hostel is obligatory for students whose parents are not of this town.

The College has a Social Service League under the direction of a Senior Professor. The College has also a Literary Society for Tamil and English.

The Government, both the State and the Union, has been very generous to aid the expansion of the College. All the students who applied for scholarships got scholarships sanctioned. The unique Government help is the alienation and assignment of 97·66 acres of land in the Srivilliputtur road some three miles from this town, for the construction of the College. The aim of the founder is to encourage research in Chemistry in this College so as to give a stimulus to cottage industries like matches and fire works, for which Sivakasi has an All-India reputation.

*V.V. Vanniaperumal College for Women, Virudhunagar.*—This women's college was started functioning from 27th June 1962 as a result of the overwhelming public demand for collegiate education for women. The Virudhunagar Hindu Nadar's Senthikumara Nadar College Paripalana Sabai, a body registered under the Societies Registration Act shouldered the responsibility of starting the College with the aid of its own funds and donations collected from “Mahamai Tharappus” and from the philanthropic people of Virudhunagar.

The College started functioning with 86 students in the pre-university class and 15 staff members.

The College was upgraded since June 1963 and the University granted affiliation for the B.A., B.Sc., degree courses in History and Mathematics. The strength had risen from 86 to 130 in 1963

**Seethalakshmi Achi College for Women, Pallattur.**—It was founded and started on 18th June 1962 with pre-university course by the donor Thiru O.A.P.R.M. Arunachalam Chettiar in the name of his wife Sethalakshmi Achi, with a view to expand the facilities for the girl-students to undergo university courses of studies. It has now flourished into a first grade college with the introduction of three-year degree course in Arts from the academic year 1963-64 and provides instruction in :—

**Pre-University—**

Part I—English.

Part II—Tamil.

**Part III—Group A.—**

1. Mathematics.
2. Physical Science.
3. Natural Science.

**Group B.—**

1. World History.
2. Elements of Economics.
3. Advanced Languages—
  - (i) English.
  - (ii) Tamil.

**B.A. (3 years)—**

Part I—English.

Part II—Tamil.

Part III—Economics (Major) Ancillaries.

- (i) History ; (ii) Politics.

A hostel is run by the College with facilities for 60 students on dividing system of payment, the maximum amount confined to Rs. 40 p.m. If the amount exceeds Rs. 40 the excess amount will be met by the donor. No room rent is collected. Thirty students stayed in the hostel during 1963-64.

A Colleges bus runs on the route, Karaikkudi, Alagappa Nagar, Kottaiyur, Pallattur to fetch the day scholars to the College and drop them home in the evening on a moderate charge.

**Professional and Technical Institutions.**—The importance of professional and technical education in the District has been revived by adequate recognition. After independence a new impetus has been given for technical education. A brief account of these professional and technical institutions in the District is given below :—

**The Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikkudi.**—The Engineering College offers instruction in the B.E. degree, 5 years integrated course in the branches of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. The College presented the 9th batch of

students for the Final B.E. degree examination in March, 1964. The strength of the College which was only 73 when it was started in 1952 has speedily increased to 10 times of it now. The College admits 180 students to the Engineering course. Selections of candidates for the admission to the first year is done by the Select Committee appointed by the Government of Madras. Right from the first batch of students sent up for the B.E. degree examination, the college has secured the first rank in the University successfully for 5 years. The College have also achieved good results in the All India Competitive Examination held by the Government of India and secured high ranks in I.R.S.E. and other examinations.

The College buildings consist of five separate blocks with total plinth area of 1,09,366 square feet. The outlay on the building has been more than Rs. 20 lakhs. The total cost of equipment is also more than Rs. 24 lakhs. It is obligatory on the part of every student to live in the hostels attached to the College or at any other approved lodging. The total number of books in the library is about 7,000 and the number of journals received are about 100. The average number of books issued daily is about 90. The high light of the activities of the College is the holding of the Engineering Exhibition every year.

*The Alagappa Polytechnic, Karaikkudi.*—The Alagappa Polytechnic, one of the cluster of educational Institutions founded by the late Dr. Alagappa Chettiyar was started on the 4th of July 1955. The Institution provides technical training at the diploma level and offers training in the three basic courses of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering leading to the Diploma Examination conducted by the State Board of Technical Education. Each department of the Polytechnic, viz., Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering is under the control and guidance of a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department who is assisted by Lectures and Instructors according to the standard list of the All India Council for Technical Examination. There is a workshop with fitting, wiring, smithy, foundry and carpentry sections. They have the additional facility of the Engineering College laboratories. There is a well-equipped Engineering College Library available for the students in addition to about 1,200 volumes on technical and general subject provided for separately. The Management awards fee concessions and scholarship to 23 beneficiaries amounting to Rs. 2,100, besides fee concessions and scholarships awarded by Government. The intake is 120 students per year. Three spacious hostels with airy rooms and modern amenities have been provided for the students. Sufficient attention is paid to the physical development of the students by providing facilities for games, and exercises. Students are given regular training in N.C.C. Rifles Unit.

*Alagappa College of Physical Education, Karaikkudi.*—The College was founded by the late Alagappa Chettiar and was inaugurated by his Highness, the then Rajpramuk of Mysore on August 27, 1956.

The College offers instructions in the following courses:—

Madras University Diploma in Physical Education.

Government Teachers Certificate Courses in Physical Education (both higher and lower grades).

The strength of the college was 140.

The College has a Dispensary and a Physiotherapy Department.

*The Alagappa Chettiar Training College:*—This is the second educational institution founded by Dr. Alagappa Chettiar in the Alagappa Campus at Karaikkudi.

The College commenced its activities on 5th July 1950. The sanctioned strength of the College in 1950 was 70. In 1953-54 the strength was further raised to 75. From 1955-56 the strength was still further raised to 100 in order to cope up with the demand for admissions. To meet the acute demand for seats from women students the University accorded permission for the college in 1957 to admit 20 women students out of the sanctioned strength of 100. In 1959, the strength of women students was further raised to 30 so that the college provides for 30 women and 70 men trainees.

The teaching staff consists of one Principal, two Professors, six lecturers, one Physical Director and an Arts and Crafts Instructor.

The college trains students for the B.T. degree of the Madras University and provision is made for the following optional subjects.—

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tamil.   | 4. Physical Science. |
| 2. English. | 5. Mathematics.      |
| 3. History. |                      |

The College has attached to it a Model High School, which provides facilities, for teaching practice and for demonstration lessons. The college has also two hostels attached to it. The women's hostel provides accommodation for 30 women and the men's hostel for 70 students.

The College undertook research projects in Child Training and Vocational Guidance for a period of three years under the Second Five Year Plan.

*The Extension Services Department:*—Under the Directorate of Extension Programmes for Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India of which the Principal is the Honorary Director organises courses of in service training for the benefit of teachers in the schools under its jurisdiction. It is well equipped with a library, audio-visual equipment, etc.

*V. V. Vellaichamy Nadar, Polytechnic, Virudhunagar:*—The Vellaichamy Nadar Polytechnic was established in 1958-59 under the scheme for expansion of technical education during the Second Five Year Plan Period. It is functioning under the sponsoring body of Virudhunagar S. Vellaichamy Nadar, Charities Managing Board, represented by the various business men. The institution offers courses of study leading to the diplomas in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. It provides instruction for 120 students. It has five playgrounds and hostels for boys.

*The Electro-chemical Research Institute, Karaikkudi:*—The Central Electro-chemical Research Institute (CECRI) a national laboratory devoted to electro-chemical research, is a great landmark in the field of research in the District. At the initiative of late J.C. Ghosh and the late Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar, a scheme for starting a national laboratory for electro-chemical research was considered and recommended by the Electro-chemical Research Committee in 1944. The late Dr. R. Alagappa Chettiar offered money and land. The foundation was laid by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1948. The institute was opened on January 14, 1953, and the late Dr. B. B. Dey was appointed as its first Director and on his retirement Dr. K.S.G. Doss took charge in February 1957. The main aim of the institute is to help in development and expansion of electro-chemical industries in our country with the progressive development of the hydro-electric and thermal power projects. More and more power will be available for starting new electro-chemical industries and expanding the existing ones. It is the function of the institute to tackle the problems relating to these with reference to the special conditions in the country as well as the available raw-materials, discover new and improved processes, work out the know-how for establishing new industries and thus contribute to the development of our national wealth. It also serves as a centre for research in fundamental and theoretical electro-chemistry which while helping to expand the frontiers of electro-chemistry, brings about a basic scientific approach which is so important in a speedy and economic solution of applied problems. It also imparts technical training to industrial personnel and enhances their research consciousness.

The institute is carrying out research work under the following heads :—

- (i) Electro-thermics and Electro Furance products ;
- (ii) Electro-organic and Electro-inorganic preparations and batteries ;
- (iii) Electro-minning, Electro-deposition and metal finishing ;
- (iv) Fundamental Electro-chemistry including Electro-chemistry of semi conductors and Electro-chemical instrumentation.
- (v) Corrosion.

The institute has well equipped library. It has 12,000 volumes on subjects relating to Electro-chemistry and allied branches such as physical-chemistry, metallurgy and chemical-engineering. There is also a workshop fully equipped with various types of machine tools for fabrication of normal pilot plant set ups. The institute has a Survey and Information Section which deals with dissemination of technical information.

The institute has worked out a number of new processes and handed over to industry. The process for cuprous oxide has been leased out and nearly one lakh of rupees worth of the chemical has been produced in six months recently. The processes for the production of an inophenols (photographic developers) sal cylaid-dehyde (perfume intermediate and dye intermediate), calcium gluconate (pharmaceuticals), synthilic crylite (moderator for propellents) and electrolytic capacitors have been handed over to the industry for expansion.

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mantapam:—  
The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mantapam Camp is one of the Central Institutes of the Government of India under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This has a number of subsidiary research establishments and also observation centres for making comprehensive survey of fish landings along the coastline of India. The institute was started in 1947 at Madras, and its headquarters at Mantapam Camp was set up in 1949. The spacious laboratories and residential quarters are spread over a hundred acre land. The head of the institute is the Director, under whose supervision, investigations in various fields of fishery, Biology, Fishery Survey, Marine biology and General Physiology are carried out. The library of the institute containing over 7,000 books and bounded volumes of periodicals relating to Marine Zoology, Oceanography, Marine-biology, fish and fisheries, is worth about a million ruppees and is considered to be the best in marine sciences in the South East Asia. In addition, important Indian and foreign journals numbering over 90 are regularly subscribed for and 150 more are added on exchange basis to the current Periodical Section. The institute has its own journal, "Indian journal of Fisheries". This institute is recognised by the Inter University Board of India, as a centre



for postgraduate degrees viz., Ph. D. and D.Sc. The training in research is also given to research scholars under the Government of India Research Training Scheme.

As regards facilities for research, two small machanised vessels are always at the disposal of research workers for collection of material. There is also a well equipped mechanical work-shop for fabricating specialised apparatus designed by the research staff. A cold store of 3-ton capacity is attached to the institute for preserving research material. A reference collection consisting of a comprehensive collection of fishes, marine animals and algae, all of which have been identified and labelled is an asset to the institute. There is also a museum of fisheries, open to the public where stuffed and preserved specimens are well displayed. Fishes of commercial importance, corals, sponges, sea-weeds and their products and charts and models of important fishing areas, craft and gear are of great educative value and always attract the attention of visitors. A small aquarium with a regular circulating water system is specially equipped for rearing marine animals for observation and experimentation. A very rare exhibit in the aquarium is the pair of "Dugongs" or sea-cows. The sea off Mantapam and Rameswaram abounds in Dolphins and Dugong which are marine mammals. The Dugong otherwise called the sea-cow is fish like in shape with four flippers and an horizontal tail. They have no hind-limbs, and there is little sign of a neck, a broad some what pig like head being more or less continuous with the body. The eyes are small and there is no external ear.

A well furnished guest house has been maintained by this institute for official visitors and scientists.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL CENTRES.

*Pre-Primary Education:*—There are four types of pre-primary schools in the State (1) the Nursery (2) The Kindergarten, (3) the Montessori and (4) the Pre-basic. Admission to nursery schools is restricted to age group 2—5 and the kindergarten and montessori school to the age group of 2 to 7 years. Nursery schools lead to standard I and the kindergarten and montessori schools to standard III of elementary schools.

*Alagappa College Montessori School:*—The Alagappa Montessori School was started in the year 1953. It has a hostel attached to it. Children are given all facilities for developing habits conducive to the unfoldment of their total personality. The teaching staff consists of three Montessori Trained Teachers. The strength of the school was 59 (1963). Students of the Training College have an opportunity of seeing the Montessori Method at work in the school, during their school visits.

*Alagappa Preparatory School:*—The school was inaugurated on 8th June 1955 and started with a strength of 18. The teaching staff consists of two lady teachers and its present strength is 47. There are two members of the teaching staff, all ladies. In addition to the regular subjects taught in all schools, English and Hindi are compulsory for all children irrespective of age or class.

*Social Education.*—The systematic and organised measures for the spread of adult literacy, education and culture among the masses of the District were adopted only in very recent times. The modified scheme of social (adult) education was introduced in the State during the year 1954-55. According to this scheme social education provides an educational base for community development programmes in the country and includes literacy, use of libraries, education in citizenship, cultural and recreational activities, utilisation of audio-visual aids and organisation of youth and women's groups. Most of the work is done in the development blocks. There are two Social Education Organisers in each block performing two important functions in the social education activities at the block level. Social Education Organiser (men) has been utilised for the appointment of Education Extension Officer. He organises Mid-day Meals centres, attends to the enrolment and attendance in standards I to V etc. These are some of his chief functions. Social Education Organisers (Women) were brought under the administrative control of the Director of Women's Welfare with effect from 1st June 1961 and encadred in the Women's Welfare Department<sup>1</sup>. They attend to the activities connected with the welfare of women and children in rural areas.

Ramanathapuram District has an impressive programme for the spread of social education and cultural diffusion among the masses.

*Training Schools:*—There are 12 training schools in the District, of which all are basic training schools except a non-basic training school. Of these twelve training schools 8 schools are for men and 4 for women. The location of these schools is furnished below :—

|   |       |                 |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| Government Basic Training School              | ..    | Ramanathapuram. |
| Government Basic Training School              | .. .. | Paramagudi.     |
| Government Basic Training School              | .. .. | Mallipudur.     |
| St. Stanislaus Basic Training School          | .. .. | Sattur.         |
| N. R. Das Basic Training School               | .. .. | Vadamalapuram.  |
| Government Basic Training School              | .. .. | Sivaganga.      |
| Government Basic Training School              | .. .. | Johilapatti.    |
| Government Basic Training School              | .. .. | Peraliyur.      |
| Government Basic Training School (for women)  | .. .. | Ramanathapuram. |
| Sacred Heart Basic Training School for Women  | .. .. | Srivilliputtur. |
| Government Basic Training School (for women). | .. .. | Palayampatti    |
| Aided Training School (For women)             | .. .. | Karaikkudi.     |

These training schools, 8 are run by the Government and the rest are aided schools. The total strength of all the training schools in the District was 1,184 men and 1,106 women in the year 1962-63.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

*Industrial Training Institute, Virudhunagar ;*—In the District there is one Industrial Training Institute functioning at Sulakkarai, Virudhunagar where training is imparted for a period of 2 years in the following trades which also for carrying on research

<sup>1</sup> G.O. Ms. No. 2078, Rural Development and Local Administration, dated 22nd March 1961.

include compulsory training for the last six months in factories under workshop conditions with a view to enable them to secure suitable employment and also to meet the increasing demand from new entrepreneurs :—

Turner ;  
Carpenter ;  
Fitter ;

Moulder ;  
Mechanist ; and  
Wireman.

The Industrial Training Institute, Sulakkarai also provides hostel facilities for the students. There are at present about 300 students in Virudhunagar undergoing training (1963).

*Industrial Training Institute, Paramagudi.*—The object of starting an Industrial Training Institute under Craftsmen Training Scheme is:

- (i) to ensure steady flow of skilled workers in different trades for industry ;
- (ii) to raise the quality and quantity of industrial production by systematic training of workers ; and
- (iii) to reduce unemployment among educated youth by equipping them for suitable industrial employment.

The Industrial Training Institute at Paramagudi sanctioned under the Third Five-year Plan started to function from 1st November 1962. Training in the following trades are given in this institute, free of cost :—

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Turner ;               | 4. Mechanic (Motor) ; |
| 2. Fitter ;               | 5. Wireman ;          |
| 3. Welder (Gas and Arc) ; | 6. Carpentry.         |

A stipend of Rs. 25 per mensem is awarded to 33½ per cent of the trainees subject to the preservation, as far as possible of 16 per cent of the stipends to the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 25 per cent of the stipend to trainees belonging to Backward classes. Free workshop clothing and facilities for games, recreation and medical treatment are also given to the trainees while at the institute. The duration of the training in the institute is 18 months. The trainees will be sent up to the All India Trade Test conducted by the National Council for Training in Vocational Trades, to obtain National Trade Certificates. This certificate is issued to the trainees only after they had undergone inplant training for 6 months in approved industries. Admission in the Industrial Training Institute are made once in nine months. The total sanctioned strength of trainees in each trade are as shown below :—

| Name of the Trade.      |    |    |    | Total sanctioned strength. |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----------------------------|
| 1. Fitter               | .. | .. | .. | 64                         |
| 2. Wireman              | .. | .. | .. | 64                         |
| 3. Mechanic (Motor)     | .. | .. | .. | 32                         |
| 4. Turner               | .. | .. | .. | 48                         |
| 5. Welder (Gas and Arc) | .. | .. | .. | 24                         |
| 6. Carpentry            | .. | .. | .. | 32                         |

Free hostel accommodation is provided for the trainees. A Hostel-Superintendent-cum-Physical Training Instructor has also been appointed to look after the inmates of the hostel.

The institute is now functioning in a rented building. An extent of 39.63 acres of land has been acquired. A workshop and the main building for the Industrial Training Institute at a cost of Rs. 5,770 lakhs (including cost of land) is now under construction.

It has also been decided to establish an Industrial Training Institute at Karaikkudi and the land for the construction of building for this Industrial Training Institute has been selected in the Industrial Estate Site, Karaikkudi, near Devakottai Road Railway Station.

With a view to provide technical training and local employment to the Scheduled castes and Backward Classes of East Ramanathapuram District, a General purpose Engineering Workshop at Mudukulattur (already described) has been sanctioned. Provision has been made to give training to 30 people.

The Work Centre for Semi-educated Youths (already described) was started in 1962 for imparting training in carpentry and blacksmithy to educate youths who have studied upto VIII standard and above so as to enable them to learn technical trades in order to earn their living. The centre is intended to impart training to 40 people.

**Commercial Schools.**—There are 30 commercial schools in the District located at the following places:—

|                                     |       |    |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----|-----------------|
| 1 The Ideal Commercial Institute    | .. .. | .. | Srivilliputtur. |
| 2 Rajan Typewriting Institute       | .. .. | .. | Virudhunagar.   |
| 3 Vivekananda Typewriting School    | .. .. | .. | Virudhunagar.   |
| 4 Thomas Typewriting Institute      | .. .. | .. | Virudhunagar.   |
| 5 Rajan Institute of Commerce       | .. .. | .. | Rajapalayam.    |
| 6 The Type School                   | .. .. | .. | Sattur.         |
| 7 Thangam Typewriting Institute     | .. .. | .. | Sattur.         |
| 8 Srinivasa Technical Institute     | .. .. | .. | Srivilliputtur. |
| 9 Kumar Typewriting School          | .. .. | .. | Rajapalayam.    |
| 10 Sri Vinayagar Typewriting School | .. .. | .. | Watrap.         |
| 11 Shri Ram School of Commerce      | .. .. | .. | Rajapalayam.    |
| 12 Shri Ram School of Commerce      | .. .. | .. | Sivakasi.       |
| 13 Nagarajan Typewriting Institute  | .. .. | .. | Virudhunagar.   |
| 14 Saraswathi Institute of Commerce | .. .. | .. | Ramanathapuram. |
| 15 Vasan's Typewriting Institute    | .. .. | .. | Ramanathapuram. |
| 16 Venkatesan Technical Institute   | .. .. | .. | Rameswaram.     |
| 17 Rajan Institute of Commerce      | .. .. | .. | Devakottai.     |
| 18 Rajamani Institute               | .. .. | .. | Devakottai.     |
| 19 Commercial Academy               | .. .. | .. | Karaikkudi.     |
| 20 The School of Commerce           | .. .. | .. | Karaikkudi.     |
| 21 The National Technical Institute | .. .. | .. | Karaikkudi.     |
| 22 National Institute of Commerce   | .. .. | .. | Kandanur.       |
| 23 Sri Ram Typewriting Institute    | .. .. | .. | Puduvayal.      |
| 24 Sri Ram Technical Institute      | .. .. | .. | Paramagudi.     |
| 25 Vasan's Typewriting Institute    | .. .. | .. | Paramagudi.     |
| 26 Bhilal Typewriting School        | .. .. | .. | Ilayangudi.     |
| 27 Central Typewriting Institute    | .. .. | .. | Aruppukkottai.  |
| 28 Rajendra Typewriting Institute   | .. .. | .. | Aruppukkottai.  |
| 29 Lakshmi typewriting Institute    | .. .. | .. | Manamadurai.    |
| 30 Vasan Typewriting Institute      | .. .. | .. | Sivaganga.      |

These schools offer training in typewriting, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Banking, Accountancy, Commercial Geography, theory and Practices of Commerce, etc.

*School for the Physically Handicapped.*—There are two schools for the education of the handicapped in the District. One is located in Karaikkudi called Municipal Deaf and Dumb School. Another is a Leper School (aided) situated at Dayapuram. Instructions are mostly free in these schools. Boarding and lodging facilities are also provided. These schools generally cover the elementary school syllabus. In addition to the general education, special attention is paid in these institutions to vocational training in crafts like ratten work, wood work, tailoring, mat weaving, needle work and dress making.

*Tamil Isaipalli, Devakottai.*—This is a special school unique to the District, imparting training in carnatic music. Provision is made in the institution for the teaching of instrumental music, *veena*, violin and in *baratha naiyam*. The strength of this institution was 71 during the year 1961. This school is intended to bring up the taste for music and dance carnatic music and *baraiha natyam*, folk dances, dance drama, tableaux-mythological, social and harijan uplift, etc., *kollattam* and *kummi*.

*Alagappa Music School.*—The school gives training in *veena* and vocal music in addition to training in *bharatha natyam*. Pupils are coached up for the Government Technical Examinations in Music. A few scholarships are available for deserving students.

*National cadet Corps and Auxiliary Cadet Corps.*—National Cadet Corps units are functioning in the District since 1955. Junior National Cadet Corps units were started in secondary schools in 1950. In the Ramanathapuram District both 7th and 9th Madras Battalions are functioning. The remarkable development during recent years is the starting of N. C. C. as a part of All India Scheme for giving military training to the students in the colleges. The authorised strength of the Rifles Company is 200 and the Company is commanded by a N. C. C. Officer. The headquarters for the N. C. C. Rifles of this region is Karaikkudi having control over 10 Companies. The Auxiliary Cadet Corps for boys are in full swing in the District.

*Scouts.*—The Scouts Movement owes its existence in this District mostly to the generous patronage given to it by the Rajas' of Sivaganga. As early as 1921 Scout Troops were formed at Sivaganga. The members of the Poor Boys' Hostel and the Raja's High school, both under the management of the Rajah were practically the nucleus. A large contingent of scouts from this place participated in the Jamboree held on the Island grounds, Madras which was attended by Baden Powell, the founder of the movement. It was at that Jamboree that an amalgamation of the original Boy-scouts and the Besant National Scout was effected. In 1926 the

District Scout Council was formed with the District Collector as the President. The Government Officials were taking interest in the movement and the movement spread to many high schools in the District. Training camps were held to produce Scout Masters to be in charge of troops and much progress was shown. After about a decade of good progress, there was a set back because of the emergence of the Hindustan Scout Organisation. But as this was mainly confined to open groups and that too mainly in the Chettinad area, the original movement went on steadily in the high schools and elementary schools. The District held a high place in the Presidency both in enrollment and scout activities. The District Scout Council was functioning well all these years. After the advent of freedom all the scout organisations were brought under Bharat Scout and Guides in 1950 and the activities were carried on with much enthusiasm. Again there was a set back because of the A. C. C., N. C. C. and Citizenship Training. The few teachers who were interested in scouting had to plough a lonely furrow. It was still a voluntary movement and had to exist as such. No wonder it faded. With the introduction of the Panchayat Raj, the Panchayat Union is taking some interest and the movement is trying to come into its own and make its headway in the rural parts. The Silver Jubilee of the movement in the District was celebrated in 1955 under the presidentship of Thiru Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

*Spread of Education among Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.*—Adhering to the directive principles of the constitution which lays down that “the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular, of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation”. The Government have given special educational facilities for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes to stimulate interest and to enable them to take their rightful place in society. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and poor students belonging to other Backward Classes are exempted from payment of fees at all levels of education. They also receive scholarship grants from the Government to prosecute their studies. Grants are also sanctioned for them for purchasing books”. The number of Harijans and Backward Class students seeking admission in educational institution is steadily increasing in the District. Seats are reserved for them in professional colleges. Special attention is being bestowed in the matter of imparting technical knowledge by giving educational concessions to the maximum number of Harijan students in such institutions as Engineering Colleges, Medical, Colleges and Polytechnics, etc.

Adequate measures are also taken to give cheap hostel facilities to the students of Scheduled Castes, studying in schools. Hostels have been opened in the important centres of higher education.

There are 30 Harijan Hostels in the District. Another marked step in the sphere of education of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes is the opening of schools of social education and adult literacy centres. Night schools are also opened in the predominantly Harijan localities.

Tribal uplift and their education has also been given adequate attention. Tribal schools are being conducted exclusively for the benefit of the tribal children. The tribal school at Shembaga Tope 5 miles from Srivilliputtur is a remarkable one of this kind. Fifteen tribal children are being educated in that school. In the tribal schools, the children are taught handicrafts, simple agriculture and simple sanitation methods. Free meals are provided for the pupils of this school.

To look after the welfare and education of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes a separate department has been set up under the name of Harijan Welfare Department. The main functions of this Department are maintenance of schools, provision of scholarships, maintenance of free hostels etc., for the benefit of the children of these classes.

It is a regrettable fact to note that women's education in the District is very low, when compared to other districts. The masses of the District due to environmental conditions generally looked down upon education of women. The main reason may be economic. There are signs of change during recent years with the starting of free midday meals scheme and free supply of uniforms.

*Library Services:*—The organised and systematic expansion of Library Movement is of comparatively recent origin in the District. However, libraries had been established in the District under the absorbing interest of the Sethupatis of Ramanathapuram.

Under the Madras Public Libraries Act of 1948, the Local Library Authority for Ramanathapuram was constituted in the year 1950 and is functioning with a Free Public Library Service Scheme to each and every citizen of the District. The skeleton of the scheme is to have one Central Library for the whole District, one Branch Library for each locality with a population of 5,000 and above, one Book Delivery Station for each village with a population between 1,000 and 5,000 and one for each group of three hamlets having a population of 1,000 and below. Thus the whole District will be covered with the net work of Free Public Library Service through the Central and Branch Libraries supported by their Book Delivery Stations and thus will bring within the easy reach of every man in the District means for his educational and cultural development through his own efforts.

As a first step the District Central Library was inaugurated on 13th December 1952 at Sivaganga and is functioning with its well organised Dailies and Periodicals Section, Reading and Reference

**Section and Book Lending Section** with additional facilities to the children. At present there is a stock of 8,000 books in Tamil, English and Hindi. Among them, nearly 1,000 well selected books on Reference, Art, Architecture and Photography are also available. More than 50 items of news-papers and journals are purchased and all the back number of the standard journals are kept bound for permanent use of the reading public. The library gets a daily average attendance of 200 and about 75 books are made use of daily. More than 500 books borrowing members have been enrolled so far in the Book Lending Section of the Library.

The second phase of the Library Scheme is that of opening of branch libraries and so 43 branch libraries have been opened in all parts of the District. All these branches are fully equipped with good number of books and journals and requisite articles of furniture. These libraries serve the towns and villages with a population of 5,000 and above. These are functioning on the same line as that of the Central Library with their Dailies and Periodicals Section, Reference and Reading Section and Book Lending Section. Wherever there is response, separate provisions are made available for women and children.

Number of volumes in all the branch libraries at present is 1,23,622. Average number of books used or referred to for the whole District in the year 1963-64 was 6,51,597.

The Book Delivery Stations are a recent innovation. There are 99 Book Delivery Stations functioning in the District. These stations are functioning in villages where the population is below 5,000. Books and other reading materials are regularly supplied to these Delivery Stations once in a month from the District Central Library or from branch libraries to which they are attached. School teachers are in charge of such stations and they keep open these libraries during evening hours in order to suit the convenience of the villagers. There are 46 Delivery Stations functioning in this District.

The Pennington Public Library is an important and well-equipped library serving all classes of people in and around Srivilliputtur in the Ramanathapuram District. There are more than 7,000 books, in English, Tamil and Sanskrit. A free Reading Room is also attached to it where more than 40 journals and newspapers, both Indian and foreign are made available to the public.

This institution was founded by a philanthropic minded Tahsildar Saravanamuthu Pillai by name, as far back as 1878, with the generous help of the local public and sponsored by Arcot Ramachandra Rao and Watrap Subbaraya Iyer, Deputy Collectors of



this division and patronised by Pennington I.C.S., Collector of Tirunelveli which included Srivilliputtur in those days. A Committee was formed for promoting the double object, viz., affording facilities for commerce and at the same time improving the culture of this ancient town. The Collector of the District was the ex-officio President, the sub-collector, the Vice President and the local Tahsildar an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. There were nine other members of the Executive Committee, mostly non-official one of them being the Secretary. To sustain the activities of the Committee, some land was acquired and shops were constructed and let for rent. In course of time, the entire market had to be reconstructed, block after block and now the market has a decent appearance and fetches a substantial amount as monthly rent. There was a proposal to demolish the row of shops called Cornonation Stalls and construct an imposing structure of shops and lodgings in its place at a cost of four lakhs of rupees and this would increase the scope for service by this institution. Quite recently the Library building was renovated and a fine Auditorium was constructed. Lectures and other functions of literary and cultural interest are held in the Auditorium for the benefit of the inhabitants of the locality. There was also a proposal to afford visual education by screening useful and educative films.

*Museums, Botanical and Zoological Gardens:*—Historical Museum and Library at Sivakasi : The Historical Museum and Library at Sivakasi is one of the remarkable of its kind in the District. It is being run under the trusteeship of Thiru Kanagaya Naidu. The museum contains some fine articles which resemble those excavated from Mohanjo-daro and Harappa in North Western India. Invaluable jewels, diamonds and weapons are carefully preserved in this museum. The library contains valuable books and old documents. There are also many old coins and other curios which are kept well preserved.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SURVEY OF HISTORICAL RECORDS, IN THE DISTRICT.

The Indian Historical Records Commission sponsored by the National Archives, Government of India, New Delhi, has launched a scheme for collecting old records in palm leaves and paper manuscripts found in the possession of private institutions and persons. These facts will go into the proposed National Register of Records. The main object of this scheme is to unearth records in private custody, preserve them and throw them open for historical research.

A Regional Committee for the State has been constituted under this scheme. It is under the charge of a convener. A Research Assistant has been appointed for the purpose of collecting

records scattered in different parts of the State. He tours all the districts of the State and with the assistance of the District Collectors comes into contact with the possessions of records and tries to collect them.

In this connection, the Research Assistant toured extensively, the whole of Ramanathapuram District and had collected some valuable records. Among these records the following are of great importance :—

(1) More than 250 palm leaf records at Ramanathapuram Palace were found to be revenue records called the “ Olugu Olai ”. About 2,000 bundles of such records are available with the authorities of the palace.

(2) A copy of the correspondence between the Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram and the Governors of the Dutch possessions in the eastern coast which provides full information about the pearl fishery in the eastern coast during the period roughly from 1680–1790 A.D. The indifferent attitude of the Rajas of Ramanathapuram towards their Suzerain, Nayaks could be gathered from these letters. They have scanty references to the Nawab of Arcot. The copies of treaties concluded between the Rajas of Ramanathapuram and the Dutch are found in the possession of the Raja of Ramanathapuram.

(3) The ‘Peranai Suit’ between the Raja of Ramanathapuram the State of Madras over the waters of Vaigai and in Periyar, 1901, gives an insight into the irrigation system in the Madurai District, Sivaganga Zamindari and the Ramanathapuram Zamindari. Topographical information is also available. A printed copy of the legal proceedings concerning this suit is obtained from the Palace Record Office.

(4) A copy of the judgment in a civil suit in the year 1896, between two rival claimants to the Sivaganga Zamindari throw light on the early history of the Sivaganga Zamindari.

(5) The late Muthuramalinga Thevar’s collections of records contain a *suvasi* which traces the origin of their family from the Pandyas.

(6) Records on Pooli Thevan are available at Mangalam near Kadaladi.

(7) The Sivaganga Zamin Office contains palm leaf records similar to the “ Olugu Olai ” of Ramanathapuram. There are about 1,000 such bundles.

(8) The “ Blue Books of Sivaganga ” contain copies of the important correspondence between the British and the Zamindars and proceedings of the various law suits. The letters date from 1801 A.D. Besides furnishing the early history of the Zamindari, they speak of the usurpation of the Marudu Brothers.

(9) Most of the old temple records of Kalaiyarkoil are in palm leaves. They are of religious and literary value. The copper plates preserved there, were issued by the Zamindars of Sivaganga.

(10) Two *suvadis* at Sivakasi deal with the sale of slaves and lands in the Sivakasi territory. The date of *suvadi* is not known.

The Collector of the District periodically convenes the Regional Committee for the Survey of Historical Records functioning in the District and helps the collection of information about the available records.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

*Indigenous Medicine in Early Times*:—The Tamil literature bears numerous references to the indigenous systems of medicines that were prevalent from very early times. These Tamil works mainly speak of three different medicines<sup>1</sup>; *Thirikadugam* (திரிகடுகம்) is the name of a powder with three ingredients, *elathi* (எலாதி) denotes a powder with six ingredients and *Sirupanjamoolam* (சிறுபஞ்சமூலம்) stands for a medicine prepared with five herbs. Works of the Sangam period also refer to doctors and medical practitioners. The *Silapadhikaram* refer to doctors who were sitting in the court of the Pandyan King. From this it may be inferred that doctors had royal patronage during the period. *Thirukural*, also attributed to the Sangam period, contains a separate chapter on medicines.

The system of medicine practised in Tamilnad in the early periods was the Siddha System. This system is attributed by tradition to sage *Agasthya*. A number of works regarding medicine in Tamil are also attributed to the sage, *Agasthya*<sup>2</sup>. In a work known as *Ayurvedam* he describes the various diseases, their symptoms, the development and methods of cure. In another work concerning surgery (*Ranavaidhyam*) he not only explains the various surgical methods, but describes the methods to cure a disease without resorting to surgical methods. The same book contains references to various ailments of the eyes and describes the treatment for such maladies.

*Agasthya* according to tradition, was the head of a line of Siddhars consisting of eighteen leading legendary figures who practised and protected the Siddha System of medicine. The Siddha System of treatment mainly rested on the administration of metallic drugs, calcined powder, oxide, electuary, medicated liquid, medical herbs fried in ghee, pills and plaster. The treatment is divided into two parts. *Arsham*, cure by herbs and roots and *Thanthrikam*, cure by metallic substances. This system is still practised in the Tamil Nadu.

Another indigenous system of medicine that was practised in the District was the Ayurveda System and even today some vaidyas practise this system. This system was imported into the District from Malabar and the West Coast with which a thriving coastal trade was flourishing from very early times.

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#### 1. Ayur Vedamum Kala Ganithamum.

2. அகத்தியர் பெருந்திரட்டு, எவத்திய சிந்தாமணி, ஆயிரத்திருநூறு, ஆயுர்வேதம், இரணவைத்தியம்.

Then came the Unani System of medicine from the Middle East. This system is said to have originated in Greece from where it found its way to Arabia. The trade connections between Arabia and the Ramanathapuram District gave rise to a number of small Arab Settlements on the coast. They brought this system and introduced it in the Tamil Nadu. This system greatly influenced the prevailing indigenous system of medicine in the Tamil Nadu.

The Indian systems of medicine comprising Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani were in wide practice in this State for a long time. But they had neither recognition nor encouragement. It was towards the end of 1921 that, at the instance of the late Raja of Panagal, the then Chief Minister of Madras Province a Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir Md. Usman Sahib "to report on the question of recognition and encouragement of Indigenous System of Medicines in vogue in this Presidency". In pursuance of the recommendation of the committee the Government sanctioned in 1925 the starting of the Government Indian Medical School in which training was given in the respective Indian systems supplemented by a restricted course of instruction in Allopathic System. Students who underwent the course of instruction in the school were given the Diploma of Licentiate in Indian Medicine, Madras. The course of training given in the school was later made more elaborate to enable the alumni of the school to become competent practitioners in Indian systems of medicine with a good working knowledge of the Western systems also.

In 1946 an "Ad hoc" Committee was appointed by Government to devise ways and means for the encouragement of Indian systems of Medicine and as per the recommendation of this Committee, a Board of studies was constituted. The Government Indian Medical School was converted into a college in the year 1947 and the diploma course of G.C.I.M. (Graduate of the College of Indigenous Medicine) was instituted. In 1964, the Government started the College of Indian Systems of Medicine to impart teaching exclusively in Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine at Palayamcottai, Tirunelveli District.<sup>1</sup>

*The Modern System of Medicine* :—With the advent of modern Western systems of medicine introduced by the British in the 19th century in the Ramanathapuram District, the indigenous schools of medicine receded into background. This was due to the inherent defects of the indigenous system. These practitioners lacked intimate knowledge of physiology and other collateral sciences. But still, even after the introduction of Allopathic System

1. Source : Tamil Arasu, 21st November 1970.

the Indigenous system continued to be in vogue and still do so, though on a much diminished scale. They survived because of their own intrinsic value and also because medical relief under the modern system of medicine could not cover the rural areas due to the great paucity of qualified practitioners.

The Allopathic System was introduced in the Ramanathapuram District by the East India Company. To begin with the services of the allopathic surgeons appointed by the East India Company was restricted to the European troops and officers only. Then it gradually spread out and the civilians also came to be benefited by them. It may be said that with the advent of the East India Company's rule in the District. At this time the Medical Department of East India Company was administered by a Board consisting of a Physician-General, a Surgeon-General, and an Inspector of Hospitals with a Secretary. In the year 1857 the Medical Board was abolished and the department came to be administered by a Director-General. Another medical department known as the Indian Medical Department was serving the civilians and the Indian soldiers. In the year 1880, these two different departments were merged together and placed under one administrative officer.

The major problem that confronted the medical personnel in the early years of the Department was the epidemics. Of the epidemics occurring in the District, cholera was the most important and more persistent than other epidemics. Severe epidemics of cholera occurred in 1815, 1818-20, 1831-37, 1843, 1850-53, 1858-59, 1861, 1865, 1875, 1887, 1891, 1897, 1900, 1918, 1924, 1925, 1936, 1943 and 1950. Its frequent occurrence can be ascribed to the heavy pilgrim traffic that flow into the District from various parts of India and to acute scarcity of water at harvest time in villages where labourers congregate, where the polluted water acts as a carrier of disease.

Before the separate Health Department came into existence no systematic effort was taken to check the ravages of this epidemic. At this period the principal seat of cholera was Ramanathapuram and the neighbourhood. Pilgrims perpetually passing through it on their way to Rameswaram keep the disease prevalent. And they also carry the disease to other towns.

Prior to mass-scale vaccinations, small-pox was also prevalent in the District in epidemic form. In the recent years the ravages of this disease have been much less compared to the earlier years.

The vaccine virus was first brought to India in 1802 and introduced in Madras Presidency by the exertions of Dr. John Anderson. On the introduction of vaccine virus into Madras efforts were taken in Madras Presidency during the concluding years of Lord Clive's administration to induce people to accept vaccination. Special arrangements were made to encourage vaccination. Pamphlets were published explaining Jenner's discovery and they were translated into local languages and circulated at the expense of the Government. Indigenous medical practitioners were given training in the art of vaccination and were given 10 pagodas for every hundred successful operations performed. But this system of payment by results was abolished in the year 1805, when a Superintendent-General of Vaccination was appointed.

The Medical Board appointed Indian vaccinators in various places and began to review the position periodically. In the year 1852, 60,005 persons were vaccinated in Ramanathapuram District. At that time there were five vaccinators stationed in Ramanathapuram town. But it was not popular among the people. One of the chief objections brought forward to vaccination was that *Mariamamma*, the goddess of small-pox would be offended if artificial means were adopted to avert the malady. The obstacles to vaccination from a religious point of view were clearly foreseen by the Medical Board in 1807. After some plans, changes were made in the Department which resulted in the abolition of the Superintendent-General and the transfer of the control of the vaccine establishments in the revenue districts to officers of the Revenue Department.

*Diseases common to the District.*—Small-pox had been prevalent in the District from very early times in epidemic form. After the undertaking of systematic vaccination, the incidence of small-pox has considerably gone down. However, to ensure complete unanimity, the individual has got to be vaccinated periodically. This factor and the highly contagious nature of the disease are the two causes that militate against the efforts of the Government to eradicate it completely. The climate of the District, hot and dry most of the month, also engenders this disease. But now it occurs only sporadically. In the year 1960, there were only 27 recorded cases in the District and no deaths.

Cholera has also been ravaging the District from very early times in epidemic form. Systematic anti-cholera inoculation and improved water system have controlled the disease considerably. The pilgrims' traffic now and then spreads the disease even now. But they are usually controlled. In the year 1960, there were 6 attacks and one death.

Malaria has been prevalent persistently in certain villages in Ramanathapuram and Srivilliputtur taluks. But the advent of National Malaria Eradication Programme and mosquito control

has successfully controlled the diseases. Fresh cases have been much reduced. Still 3,928 cases were reported in the year 1960 and one died.

Kala Azar, a kind of fever is a disease peculiar to this District. In the year, 1960, there were 525 cases and two deaths. It was first reported in the year 1929 by the District Health Officer. He observed that it is co-existed with malaria in Kilakkarai, Pamban, Periyapatnam and Thangachchimattam. The proportion of cases was largest among Mohammedans. Facilities for special treatment of this disease was provided at Kilakkarai. Filariasis was prevalent in Malaipatti in Aruppukkottai Taluk and Meesalam in Sattur Taluk. Respiratory and skin diseases are common in Sakkottai area. In Tiruvadanai a disease called "A vitamiosis" is common.

Amoebic dysentery is common in Chettinad. This is attributed to lack of proper latrines. Asthma cases are also noted among the Nattukottai Chettiars. Around Rajapalayam Anemia is common. Tuberculosis is found in the industrial labourers' quarters in the slum areas of this town. In the congested localities in the heart of the town, dysentery is often reported.

The following is the list of Government Hospitals in Ramanathapuram District in 1964 :—

| <i>Serial number and name of the Government Medical Institutions.</i> | <i>Number of beds.</i> | <i>Number of Doctors.</i> | <i>Number of Nurses.</i> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1)   | (2)                    | (3)                       | (4)                      |
| 1 Government Headquarters Hospital, Ramanathapuram.                   | 100                    | 15                        | 19                       |
| 2 Government Hospital, Mudukulattur                                   | 44                     | 2                         | 5                        |
| 3 Government Hospital, Aruppukkottai                                  | 66                     | 4                         | 11                       |
| 4 Government Hospital, Sattur   | 40                     | 2                         | 5                        |
| 5 Government Hospital, Srivilliputtur                                 | 50                     | 2                         | 8                        |
| 6 Government Hospital, Sivaganga                                      | 50                     | 2                         | 8                        |
| 7 Government Hospital, Rameswaram                                     | 16                     | 2                         | 3                        |
| 8 Government Hospital, Pudukottai                                     | 6                      | 1                         | 1                        |
| 9 Government Hospital, Panaiyur                                       | 12                     | 1                         | 1                        |
| 10 Government Hospital, Kilakkarai                                    | 10                     | 2                         | 1                        |
| 11 Government Hospital, Rajapalayam                                   | 44                     | 2                         | 6                        |
| 12 Government Hospital, Virudhunagar                                  | 118                    | 5                         | 17                       |
| 13 Government Hospital, Sivakasi                                      | 34                     | 2                         | 5                        |
| 14 Government Hospital, Tiruvadanai                                   | 8                      | 1                         | 1                        |
| 15 Government Hospital, Kilasevalpatti                                | 6                      | 2                         | 1                        |
| 16 Government Hospital, Pulakurichi                                   | 6                      | 1                         | 1                        |
| 17 Government Hospital Kanadukathan                                   | 12                     | 1                         | 1                        |
| 18 Government Hospital, Kandanoor                                     | 18                     | 2                         | 1                        |
| 19 Government Hospital, for Women and Children, Kanadukathan.         | 40                     | 1                         | 6                        |
| 20 Government Hospital for Women and Children, Paramagudi.            | 28                     | 1                         | 3                        |
| 21 Government Hospital for Women and Children, Sivaganga.             | 16                     | 1                         | 1                        |
| 22 Government Hospital for Women and Children, Ilayangudi.            | 10                     | 1                         | 1                        |
| 23 Government Hospital for Women and Children, Pallathur.             | 8                      | 1                         | 1                        |
| 24 Government Hospital for Women and Children, Pulankurichi.          | 12                     | 1                         | 1                        |



| <i>Serial number and name of the<br/>Government Medical Institutions.</i>                  | <i>Number<br/>of beds.</i> | <i>Number<br/>of Doc-<br/>tors.</i> | <i>Number<br/>of Nur-<br/>ses.</i> |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1)  | (2)                        | (3)                                 | (4)                                |
| <i>Special Departments and Hospitals—</i>  |                            |                                     |                                    |
| 25 District Public Health Laboratory, Ramnathapuram.                                       | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 26 A. Government Police Force Dispensary, Sivakasi.  | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 27 Government T.B. Sanatorium, Devakottai Road.  | 50                         | 2                                   | 7                                  |
| 28 Government Leprosy Subsidiary Centre, Aruppukkottai.                                    | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 29 Survey, Education Treatment Unit (Leprosy), Virudhunagar.                               | ..                         | ..                                  | ..                                 |
| 30 Survey, Education Treatment Unit (Leprosy), Kanadukathan.                               | ..                         | ..                                  | ..                                 |
| 31 Survey, Education Treatment Unit, (Leprosy), Kundrakudi.                                | ..                         | ..                                  | ..                                 |
| 32 Dental, V. D. District T.B. Centre of Government Headquarters Hospital, Ramanathapuram. | ..                         | ..                                  | ..                                 |
| <i>Government Dispensaries:—</i>   |                            |                                     |                                    |
| 33 Government Dispensary, Paramagudi   | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 34 Government Dispensary, Devakottai   | ..                         | 1                                   | 1                                  |
| 35 Government Dispensary, Tirupattur   | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 36 Primary Health Centre, Kariapatti   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 37 Primary Health Centre, Kannisoripudur   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 38 Primary Health Centre, Kadaladi   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 39 Primary Health Centre, Kalaiyarkoil.  | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 40 Primary Health Centre, Kallamanickampatti.  | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 41 Primary Health Centre, Reddiapatti (Rajapalayam).                                       | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 42 Primary Health Centre, Parthibanoor   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 43 Primary Health Centre, Piranmalai   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 44 Primary Health Centre, Pandugudi  | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 45 Primary Health Centre, Peraiyur   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 46 Primary Health Centre, Uppathur   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 47 Primary Health Centre, Sombanur   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 48 Primary Health Centre, Tiruvegampot   | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 49 Primary Health Centre, Muthanandal  | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 50 Primary Health Centre, Kunur  | 6                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| <i>Municipal Hospitals and Dispensaries—</i>   |                            |                                     |                                    |
| 1 Municipal Men Hospital, Karaikkudi   | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 2 Municipal Women and Children Hospital, Karaikkudi.                                       | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 3 Municipal Dispensary, Aruppukkottai  | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 4 Municipal Dispensary, Virudhunagar   | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 5 Municipal Dispensary, Rajapalayam  | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 6 Municipal Hospital, Devakottai   | ..                         | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| <i>Private Hospitals and Dispensaries (Prominents)—</i>                                    |                            |                                     |                                    |
| 1 Swedish Mission Hospital, Tirupattur   | 186                        | 3                                   | 14                                 |
| 2 St. Martin Hospital, Ramanathapuram  | 129                        | 3                                   | 10                                 |
| 3 Syed Ammal Nursing House, Ramanathapuram.  | 50                         | 1                                   | 5                                  |
| 4 Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram Hospital, Ramanathapuram.   | 25                         | 1                                   | 2                                  |
| 5 Chitharanjan Hospital (Eye), Ramanathapuram.   | 25                         | 1                                   | 3                                  |
| 6 Dayapuram Hospital and Home for Lepers, Manamadurai.                                     | 250                        | 3                                   | 16                                 |
| 7 C.S.I. Hospital, Kilangiani  | 67                         | 2                                   | 5                                  |
| 8 Kalyanakrishna Hospital, Ariyakkudi  | 8                          | 1                                   | ..                                 |
| 9 M.A.P. Women Hospital, Kandramaniokam.   | ..                         | ..                                  | ..                                 |

| Serial number and name of the Institutions.               | Number of Doctors. |
|---|--------------------|
| (1)   | (2)                |
| 1 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Mantapam .. .. .            | 1                  |
| 2 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Hayangudi .. .. .           | 1                  |
| 3 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Kamudi .. .. .              | 1                  |
| 4 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Abiramam .. .. .            | 1                  |
| 5 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruchuli .. .. .           | 1                  |
| 6 Panchayat Union Dispensary, M. Reddiapatti .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 7 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Pandalgudi .. .. .          | 1                  |
| 8 Panchayat Union Dispensary, T. Veppankulam .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 9 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Kalkurichi .. .. .          | 1                  |
| 10 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Watrap .. .. .             | 1                  |
| 11 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Seithur .. .. .            | 1                  |
| 12 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Elayirampennai .. .. .     | 1                  |
| 13 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Nenmeni .. .. .            | 1                  |
| 14 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruthangal .. .. .        | 1                  |
| 15 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tirumanjulai .. .. .       | 1                  |
| 16 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Paganeri .. .. .           | 1                  |
| 17 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Nattarasankottai .. .. .   | 1                  |
| 18 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Manamadurai .. .. .        | 1                  |
| 19 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruppuvanam .. .. .       | 1                  |
| 20 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruppachetti .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 21 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tondi .. .. .              | 1                  |
| 22 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Shanmuganathapuram .. .. . | 1                  |
| 23 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Vellayapuram .. .. .       | 1                  |
| 24 Panchayat Union Dispensary, R.S. Mangalam .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 25 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tirupalaikkudi .. .. .     | 1                  |
| 26 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tirukoshtiyur .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 27 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Kallal .. .. .             | 1                  |
| 28 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Nachiarapuram .. .. .      | 1                  |
| 29 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Athangudi .. .. .          | 1                  |
| 30 Panchayat Union Dispensary, O. Siruvayal .. .. .       | 1                  |
| 31 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Singampunari .. .. .       | 1                  |
| 32 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Muraiyur .. .. .           | 1                  |
| 33 Panchayat Union Dispensary, Eriyur .. .. .             | 1                  |

### EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN THE DISTRICT

Side by side with the steps taken against the epidemics, measures were taken, however meagre, to improve the standard of Public health. Four indigenous doctors were appointed under the control of the Zillah surgeon. But these measures did not materially affect the standard of public health. It was only in 1871 concrete step towards this direction was taken. The Madras Local Fund Act of 1871 and the Towns Improvement Act of 1871 ushered in a new era in the field of public health and sanitation. These Acts, the earliest legal enactments to contain provisions for the improvement of sanitation and manual facilities. They also contained provisions for improved vaccination in rural areas. The Madura District Board came into existence in the year 1884. The Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga zamindaries also came under the jurisdiction of this Board. This board supplied the zamindaries with a good staff of vaccinators. Even at this time there was stern opposition to vaccination<sup>1</sup>. Vaccination does not confer permanent immunity. A person has to get himself revaccinated particularly during the out-break of the epidemic. This has made it difficult to control the epidemic.

The next step in this direction was the passing of the Act of 1884 in which was embodied the next instalment of public health relations. The idea of local responsibility for public health was pronounced in this Act. Cleaning the village streets and other public places and doing such other things as were necessary for the preservation of public health was declared a part of the statutory duty of all Panchayat Unions. The new Act provided for the improvement of village sites and water supply, for sanitary arrangements during fairs and festivals, for the scavenging of small towns and large villages, for the construction and repair of markets, slaughter-houses, latrines, dust bins and drains.

But still the medical facilities did not reach the villages. In Ramanathapuram there came to be established one hospital in 1870 and it was serving the entire area that is now in the District. The hospital was established and almost entirely supported by the Zamindar of Ramanathapuram. Situated in the centre of the town, the hospital had brick-walls and flooring of earth. It consisted of two detached thatched buildings. A small tiled building near the hospital was used as the operation theatre and a store for medicines. The Zamindar of Ramanathapuram supplied dress, bedding and clothing and also paid the hospital establishments. The Government provided the medicine, surgical instruments and medical personnel. In the year 1870, 297 persons got treatment from this hospital as in-patients and 6,426 persons as out-patients.

In a few years, 10 more hospitals on a lesser scale, came to be established in Ramanathapuram Zamindari. Four hospitals at Pamban, Devakottai, Paramagudi and Tiruchuli were in the charge of a doctor. The other six hospitals were located at Kilakkarai, Rameswaram, Tiruvadana, Kamudi, Aruppukkottai and Rajasingamangalam. These six hospitals were in charge of eight dressers. Ramanathapuram Taluk Board supported and controlled these hospitals. The Zamindar of Ramanathapuram was contributing Rs. 1,500 per annum towards the upkeep of these hospitals, besides undertaking of some minor charges. Medicines were distributed free of charge to those who were in need of them.<sup>1</sup>

Another major step towards improving public health was taken in 1920. The Madras Local Bodies Act of 1920 and the Madras District Municipalities Act of 1920 imposed additional obligations on local bodies. Meanwhile Ramanathapuram District came to be formed in 1910. A separate District Board was constituted and part of the functions of the Madurai District Board were taken over. Though the above two Acts marked further progress in the legal obligations in matters relating to public health, the scattered nature of the provisions relating to public health administration in municipal and rural areas, among a number of Acts, rendered their proper working difficult. The need for a compact and separate Act for

1 S. V. Krishnan, Monograph on problems on Madras : Page 414.

2 Ramnad Manual : Page 24.

the whole province embodying all the provisions essential for the advancement of public health was keenly felt. The first Congress Ministry realised this and passed the Madras Public Health Act of 1959. This Act was exhaustive and forms the bed rock of the present system of public health. This Act gave statutory recognition to the Director of Public Health and invested him with adequate powers to discharge his duties. This Act provided that the local authorities should ear-mark a definite percentage of their income for public health expenditure, adequate measures for the prevention and eradication of infectious diseases and maternity and child-welfare measures. It made effective provision for the maintenance of proper drainage and the construction of public latrines, for the enforcement of masquito control, for the reservation of areas for residential purposes, for the registration of lodging houses, for the exercise of control over the making and sale of food and finally for the undertaking of special measures during fairs and festivals.

These developments in the Presidency level manifested in the District also. By the year 1912 there were 20 hospitals in the District. Of these only one at Srivilliputtur was run by the municipality and all others were local fund hospitals. Only six hospitals could treat in-patients and the biggest among them was Ramanathapuram hospital which had 22 beds and treated a total number of 15,833 patients, both in-patients and out-patients in the year 1915. All these twenty hospitals treated a total number of 2,18,604 patients of both type in that year and the total expenditure incurred by them was Rs. 46,008. Total average daily attendances was 1,313.44. In the same year 49,843 people were successfully vaccinated. In order to increase the facilities for medical relief in rural areas, the Government sanctioned in 1924, the grant of subsidies to private medical practitioners on condition that they agreed to settle in selected villages and give free treatment to the poor. The object underlying the scheme was not only to render it easier for the rural population to secure proper medical treatment, but also to build up an independent medical profession in rural areas.

Between 1917 and 1920 the Government took over the management of almost all the district headquarters hospitals in order to improve them and make them up to date so that they might serve as models to the rest of the District. By this time the town of Ramanathapuram came to possess a first class hospital which was established in the year 1918. In the same year a dispensary was opened at Dhanushkodi. In the year 1921, a hospital was opened at Rajapalayam and in the year 1925 two hospitals were opened at Kandaloor and Rajapalayam. The District had a total of 22 hospitals which treated a total of 15,673 persons in the district in 1925.

In 1923 the Government undertook to pay the whole of the salaries of the Government medical officers employed in local fund hospitals and municipal hospitals at taluk headquarters. This was

done with a view to make the head-quarters of each taluk the administrative pivot of medical relief for the area comprised in that taluk with adequate provision for the maintenance of atleast one efficiently managed institution in each taluk. To improve the method of indigenous midwives by giving them instruction in modern methods of midwifery a scheme was developed by the Government in 1926. After a brief and exhaustive training the *dhais* (indigenous midwives) were certified to have passed the examination.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 1925 a severe epidemic of cholera rocked the District and it continued through the first three months of 1926 in severe form, but from April onwards it gradually died out. 5,621 deaths occurred in 1925 and 2,797 in 1926. It was believed that the area included in the basin of Tampraparani river and its branches and canals was almost an endemic focus of the disease from which the infection spreads regularly to other parts of the District<sup>2</sup>. In the same year the epidemic of plague the worst affected areas were the taluks of Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi with 127 and 60 deaths respectively. Ramanathapuram was one of the four places that marked the highest death-rate due to plague in 1926. It was 7.1 per mile. Cumbum valley, which is very near the District was an endemic centre for plague and from here it infected Ramanathapuram District also. The District Health Officer reported that inordinate delays occurred in reporting out-breaks of the disease and also that the statistics showed all kinds of discrepancies. In the year 1927 also cholera epidemic broke out in the district and 1,695 persons were given anti-cholera vaccination.<sup>3</sup> In the year 1929 the District Health Officer at Ramanathapuram reported the occurrence of the disease known as Kala Azar. He observed that it co-existent with malaria in Kilakkarai, Pamban, Perriyapatinam and Thangachimatam. The proportion of cases was largest among the Mohammedan Community.

Facilities for treatment were provided at Kilakkarai. In the same year the Special Malaria Officer appointed by the Government of Madras to carry on the anti-malaria work, carried out anti-malarial investigations in three union towns in the District, Rameswaram, Pamban and Dhanushkodi. In these areas malarial fever had become endemic. The main cause was indiscriminate quarrying and excavation of pits. The water-logged pits fostered breeding of malarial masquitos<sup>4</sup>. Another disease, the prevalence of which was noted in 1929, was of guinea-worm. This disease, although not fatal except in cases with severe complications, causes an intense amount of suffering. All this was avoidable as guinea-worm disease was one of the most easily preventible diseases. Health

1 G.T. Boag—The Madras Presidency, 1881—1932 Page 117.

2 The Sixty third Annual Report of the Director of Public Health and the Thirty seventh report of the Sanitary Engineer.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid—1930.

authorities were of the view that the conversion of the step-wells into draw-wells would bring about a considerable reduction of inspection in a short time.

In the year 1935 for the first time a preliminary survey with regard to public health and sanitation during fairs and festivals was conducted. This was done in connection with the *Ardhodayam* festival. In the absence of any records and preliminary investigation, the actual arrangements were indeed a difficult task. The festival took place in 1935<sup>1</sup>. During the years 1937 and 1938, a fresh out-break of cholera broke out during winter 1937 and it grew unusually severe in November.

To promote a sense of sanitation among the public, the Government decide to educate them through propaganda. With the formation of Village Development Fund there was a source of income for village improvement. The Government launched the Rural Sanitation Campaign so as to educate the public in the wise expenditure of the village fund on public health. One Rural Sanitation Unit functioned in Ramanathapuram from 1935 June to 1938 October. In the District this unit was engaged in (1) Hook-worm survey, (2) Educational Propaganda on hookworm diseases and dangers of soil pollution, (3) Mass treatment for hook-worm and construction of bore-hole and trench latrines in rural areas. Hook-worm disease was prevalent in the District mainly due to the absence of protected water-supply system<sup>2</sup>. In 1937 the Government announced their policy of giving protected water-supply to every village in the province in the course of ten years. For this purpose, the Government constituted a non-lapsing grant of Rs. 15 lakhs. A comprehensive programme indicating the order in which the villages have to be provided with protected water-supply within the ten year period was drawn up. In classification of villages priority was given to villages which suffered from perennial or partial scarcity of water. Next in order came villages which were centres of important fairs and festivals. Next were those in which water diseases were endemic or epidemic. Ramanathapuram District list was approved by the Government in 1935. The Rural Sanitation unit disseminated knowledge on public health and sanitation through illustrated pamphlets and charts.

To improve the general health standard, the standard of diet should also be raised. With this end in view, detailed diet surveys were undertaken in Ramanathapuram District in the year 1946. During these surveys, the working of free mid-day meals to school children was also studied wherever possible. Attempts were made to examine as many children as possible to find out the manifestation of food deficiency conditions. The heights and weights were recorded for comparative studies. These surveys disclosed a general deficiency in the consumption of protective food such as milk,

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Director of Public Health, Madras for 1934—Pages 19–20.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*—1935.

greens, vegetables, pulses, fruits, etc., and a marked deficiency in proteins especially animal protein, minerals, fats and certain essential vitamins. The deficiency in staple gram was usually found to be made up by other available cereals and millets. Of these food deficiency symptoms, the most common ones were those due to vitamin 'A' and 'B-2' deficiencies.<sup>1</sup>

*Sanitation:*—With the advent of freedom in 1947, the attitude of the Government towards welfare activities changed completely. Intensive and ambitious schemes were launched to promote public health. It formed a part of the Community Development Programmes. In Ramanathapuram District these schemes were launched in two blocks, Srivilliputtur and Sivakasi. Considerable importance was given to matters relating to public health. To keep the surrounding areas of residential sites in villages clean, pits were dug outside the village and the garbage was dumped there to be used as manure, thus serving a double purpose. Soakage pits were dug in villages. Spraying of insecticides inside houses was also undertaken. Drinking water wells were sprayed with germicides intensive cholera and typhoid inoculation campaign was launched in both the blocks as a part of the Community Development Project. Public latrines were constructed in villages and drainage facilities were provided. Water supply facilities were also looked into. Number of new wells were sunk and the old wells were cleaned and provided with parapet walls.

The National Development Scheme launched in the Rajapalayam block also improved the standard of public health. Under this scheme, 143 soakage pits were dug, 44 latrines in various villages were built and a total length of 3,253 yards of drainage pits were dug.

During the First Plan period a number of development schemes were carried out all over the State. Schemes to eradicate malaria, to intensify diet propaganda, to increase medical facilities to the public were launched. The Malaria Eradication Programme was launched in Ramanathapuram District in the year 1954. D.D.T. spraying was widely undertaken and malaria preventive medicines were distributed. In the field of dietetics also the District came to be greatly benefited by the schemes of the State. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund supplied 24,000 short tons of milk powder and 4,155 short tons of rice. It was supplied to 10 lakhs children and musing mothers all over the State. In addition to this, multi-vitamins tablets, shark-liver oil and yeast tablets were supplied.

To help people to help themselves in improving their health, the Central Bureau of Health Education was started and the States

have started State Health Education Bureaus on the pattern recommended by Central Health Education Bureau. Health Education is developed on the following lines :—

- (i) Field studies and demonstration to promote health.
- (ii) Promotion of audio-visual aids to help health programmes.
- (iii) To promote school health.
- (iv) To promote Health Education Training for Health Workers.

The State Health Education Bureau is in charge of an Assistant Director of Public Health.

Regional Health Education cells are being developed in the State so that ultimately every district can have a District Health Education cell.

The Central Health Education Bureau interprets the services of the Ministry of Health so as to win the support for and make use of its various services, prepares Health Education materials which may be adopted by the local agencies to suit their needs and promotes and co-ordinates health training and research methods and media.

Under the First Five Year Plan the medical institutions in Ramanathapuram District came to be benefitted greatly. A new operation theatre was built in the district Headquarters Hospital at Ramanathapuram. A blood bank was established in this hospital in the year 1955. The Municipality of Ramanathapuram opened a maternity centre with 8 beds. In the south-eastern part of the District, Kala Azar fever had become endemic, to which reference has been made earlier in this chapter. In 1950 a medical van was purchased and it went into the affected areas and offered medical facilities to the victims of Kala Azar fever. This mobile medical unit worked among Kilakkarai, Erwadi, Periapatinam and the surrounding areas and visited these village twice in a week. During this period 10 persons were given training in compounding in the District Headquarters Hospital, out of whom, five were given stipends. In the maternity centre also five ladies were given training in midwifery.

In the Government hospital at Srivilliputtur, a surgical ward was built during the First Plan period. A maternity Centre with 14 beds was also opened in 1954 by the then Chief Minister of Madras. At Aruppukkottai, prior to 1955 there were two hospitals, one run by the municipality and the other run by the Government, each with eight beds only. In the year 1955 they were amalgamated into an enlarged Government hospital. In addition to this a general ward with 44 beds and a septic ward with 6 beds were built. An operation theatre was also added to this hospital. In 1951 the Government took over the dispensary at Mudukulattur which had hitherto been under the District Board of Ramanathapuram.



At Somanathapuram near Devakottai a T.B. Sanatorium was established. This sanatorium was meant to serve the patients from Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts. This sanatorium has one 'A' class ward, two 'B' class wards and eight 'C' class wards. In the general ward, treatment can be given to 20 male patients, 8 female patients and 8 children.

All these developments, as could be noticed, were mainly restricted to urban areas. So the villages were not much benefitted by these schemes. By the end of the First Plan period drains and latrines were totally inadequate in all villages including major panchayats. Malaria had not been completely eradicated and filaria was highly endemic in certain places of the District<sup>1</sup>. The Second Five Year Plan was aimed to meet all these needs. In village plans special emphasis was laid on providing a dispensary and a maternity centre for each group of villages with a population of 20,000 taking care to see that no two dispensaries or maternity centres were located within five miles of each other. Provision was also made for additional equipment to existing hospitals whenever necessary. At the State level, schemes were drawn for the all round improvements to the District Headquarters Hospital and all the hospitals at taluk headquarters. At the meeting of the District Planning Board, the need for protected water-supply with overhead tanks and pipes in 15 villages of Tiruppattur and Mudukulattur taluks in order to eradicate guinea-worm in the area was emphasised and the estimated amount of rupees one lakh was provided under "Water-supply" schemes. The total cost of public health scheme came to 61-75 lakhs for this District while the total cost of the Medical Scheme was Rs. 79.66 lakhs.

By the end of the Second Plan period the number of hospitals had increased from 19 to 23 and dispensaries from 39 to 42. Villages which were in remote parts of the District without much medical facilities were properly attended to. The number of village hospitals which was 33 by the end of First Plan period, was raised to 56 by the end of the Second Plan period. In a number of these hospitals doctors in indigenous medicine were appointed. Ten primary health centres were also set up.

In Ramanathapuram District there are ten Rural Family Planning Clinics and one Urban Family Planning Clinic. Thirty three medical institutions have been recognised as approved Family Planning Surgeries for undertaking family planning operations.

The staff for the urban Family Planning Clinic is :

- (i) Woman Medical Officer (Full time).
- (ii) Male Medical Officer (Part-time).

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<sup>1</sup> Second Five Year Plan, Ramanathapuram District (Madras State), 1956-61.

(iii) Nurse (Full-time).

(iv) Nursing Orderly (Full-time).

The staff for the Rural Family Planning Clinic is a staff nurse or a social worker.

Contraceptives are stocked and distributed to fathers and mothers in the Primary Health Centres, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Sub-Centre Panchayat Unions, Panchayats and Government Medical Institutions.

Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals are approved as Family Planning Surgeries for conducting family planning operations.

A full time vasectomy unit is established at Government Headquarters Hospital, Ramanathapuram.

For each Primary Health Centre a post of Nurse is sanctioned to assist the Medical Officer in the conduct of vasectomy operation.

A District Family Planning Officer has been appointed to organise the Family Planning Work.

The fathers and mothers who satisfy the following conditions are paid a compensatory allowance of Rs. 30 if they undergo family planning operation :—

(i) Fathers should not have attained the age of 50.

(ii) Mothers should have completed the age of 24.

(iii) In either case they should have a minimum of three living children.

To implement Family Planning propagation in the rural areas, the Panchayat and Panchayats Unions have been assigned certain duties and responsibilities on Family Planning. The Panchayats are paid Rs. 10 for each eligible father or mother they canvass and sent to the Family Planning Surgery for operation.

For constructing buildings for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre the Panchayats are given a discretionary works grant at the rate of Rs. 20 for each family planning operation performed in the block.

A target of 400 family planning operations per year is fixed to be achieved by each Panchayat union.

Persons who have already undergone vasectomy operation are appointed as Field Workers to canvass and bring eligible fathers for vasectomy operation and they are paid a honorarium of Rs. 10 for each case.

From 1959 onwards a separate section to treat venereal diseases has been opened at the District Headquarters Hospital at Ramanathapuram. A Special Medical officer has been appointed for this

purpose. A laboratory technician and a social worker are attached to this section. In the same hospital a tuberculosis wing was started in 1960. A specialised Medical Officer, a nurse and a compounder work in this wing. A public health laboratory has been functioning under the supervision of the Assistant Surgeon.

There were 34 Maternity Centres in the District by the end of the First Plan period. This number was raised to 63 by the end of Second Plan period at a cost of 2.5 lakhs of rupees. For the midwives in the villages, a short-term training course was started and 329 women were given training at a cost of rupees 67,430. To improve sanitation, materials were supplied free to house-owners to construct latrines. 1,536 latrines were thus built at a cost of Rs. 25,185.

B.C.G. campaign was widely undertaken and under this scheme 1,48,994 people were examined and 37,379 were inoculated. From 1960 onwards Employees' Insurance hospitals of the State have been functioning at Sivaganga and Rajapalayam. Sivaganga hospital was expanded with 30 more beds. Sattur came to have a new hospital with 40 beds.

*Extension of Public Health Facilities:*—Since 1st October 1961 the District is split up into 32 Panchayat Union Councils. Each Panchayat Union Council has a Commissioner, Extension Officers in the Block. Fifteen Primary Health Centres are functioning in this District having Medical Officers, Health Visitors, Health Inspectors and Maternity Assistants. There is a proposal to open three more Primary Health Centres have been sanctioned one at Pandalkudi (Aruppukkottai Panchayat Union), Keelathooval (Mudukulattur Panchayat Union), Devipatnam (Ramanathapuram Panchayat Union). At the District level there is a District Health Officer and a Personal Assistant to the District Health Officer. Devakottai and Virudhunagar Municipalities have Health Officers and the Municipalities of Srivilliputtur, Karaikkudi, Rajapalayam and Aruppukkottai have Sanitary Officers with adequate number of Sanitary Inspectors, Health Assistants, Registrars of Births and Deaths and Public Health Workers. Anti-mosquito measures are being done by periodical spraying with Aromax and Mealathian by Malarial Mazdoors and a Field Assistant under the supervision of one Malarial trained Sanitary Inspector at Aruppukkottai Municipality.

Out of 14 major panchayats, 7 panchayats have Sanitary Inspectors and the other panchayats do not have Sanitary Inspectors but they have Public Health Workers. Compost manufacture is done by all the panchayats.

The above public health staff attend to the maintenance of public health sanitation in rural and urban areas, the education of the public in health matters through propaganda and effect proper control in school hygiene, epidemic control improvement of environmental hygiene, etc.

The Public Health Staff are now under the administrative control of the Panchayat Union Councils with the District Health Officer having technical control over their work.

*Maternity and Child Welfare* :—In Srivilliputtur Municipality three Maternity Assistants are employed. 1,118 pre-natal registrations and 757 domiciliary cases of labour were attended by them. 558 expectant mothers were brought under care. There are no hospitals in this Municipality. In Aruppukottai Municipality three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are functioning with six Maternity Assistants with a Health Visitor to supervise them. In Sivakasi Municipality one Woman Medical Officer and four Maternity Assistants are working to provide skilled maternity assistance. In Ramanathapuram Municipality a Maternity and Child Health Centre is maintained by the Municipal Council with one Maternity Assistant and one Ayah. In Karaikkudi Municipality one Medical Officer, One Health Visitor, six maternity Assistants and One Resident Matron are employed.

All the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres opened during Second Five Year Plan and Sub-Centres attached to Primary Health Centres have been transferred to the administrative control of the Panchayat Unions with effect from 1st March 1962.

### *Control of epidemic*

*Small-pox*:—Permanent Health Assistants are appointed for the areas according to the population in the Panchayat Union Councils. The Small-pox Eradication Programme is in progress.

The incidence of small-pox from among the world records surveyed shows that it is highest to the extent of 80 percent in India and Pakistan. As such it was felt absolutely necessary to take some drastic measures with a view to not only control the disease but also to eradicate the disease from our country.

With this good intention a "Crash" programme for eradication of small-pox was launched in the Districts of North Arcot and Chingleput and Madras City during the year 1961 as an experimental measure. In the light of experience gained in the above mentioned areas the scheme was extended to the other Districts on the Development District basis.

This scheme is a part of Public Health Scheme under Third Five-Year Plan and is sponsored by the Government of India with the assistance of World Health Organisation.

Ramanathapuram West Development District was first chosen for the implementation of the scheme from March 1963 onwards. The aim is to protect the entire population of 9,95,000, if not at least 90 percent. This Development District consists of three taluks namely, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, and Srivilliputtur.

A team of 11 special Health Inspectors and 55 Vaccinators were specially appointed to the Panchayat Union councils and 5 Municipal towns in addition to the routine public health staff. The overall supervision of the scheme was entrusted to the District Health officer. To facilitate quick transport of Vaccine and other publicity materials, a jeep was allotted by the Government. The UNICEF authorities supplied 3 Refrigerators for the storage of Russian Freeze Vaccine.

As a part of the operation, enumeration of families was conducted and Vaccination taken up based on the above particulars. All the available publicity media was utilised. Committee consisting of teachers, gramascvaks, local leaders were constituted to help the public health staff. Film shows and dramatic performances depicting the evils of small-pox were conducted. Above all, the Collector had also taken necessary steps to facilitate the launching of vaccination campaign.

The progress of the work was almost even and smooth. The Campaign came to a successful close on 29-2-64 in West Ramanathapuram Development District. At that time, the total coverage of the District is 92.1 percent of the population. 51851 P. Vs. and 8,42,738 R. Vs. were performed. The health Inspectors and Sanitary Inspectors verified 44,884 P. Vs. and 5,29,090 R. Vs. out of this 40,951 R. Vs. and 204682 R. Vs. proved successful.

*Guineaworm*:—Tirupattur is the only taluk in this District with Guineaworm infection. 632 hamlets were surveyed out of which 18 villages were found affected with diseases. There is a Health Inspector and two field Assistants working under the control of Entomological Assistant and overall supervision of Research Health Officer, Madras.

*Leprosy*:—Aruppukkottai, Sivaganga and Tiruvadanai taluks are affected by leprosy in this District. A Leprosy Subsidiary Centre is functioning at Palayampatti in Aruppukkottai Taluk and a Hospital at Thayapuram in Manamadurai for the treatment of leprosy cases. A Mission Hospital at Keelanjunai is also functioning with a mobile unit.

*Malaria*:—Malaria was prevalent in sporadic form in certain villages in Srivilliputtur and Ramanathapuram taluks. But with the advent of National Malaria Eradication Programme there is no fresh cases now. This work is under the control of State Malaria Officer at State Level and Special Supervisory Unit Officer and Supervisory Unit Officer at District Level.

*National Malaria Eradication Programme*:—The National Malaria Eradication Programme implemented in the State during 1958-59 covered the entire district of Ramanathapuram for operations and continues to be in operation. The taluks

of Tiruppattur, Tiruvadanai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, and Paramagudi are covered by Sivaganga National Malaria Eradication Programme Unit, the taluks of Aruppukkottai and Mudukulattur by Aruppukkottai National Malaria Eradication Programme Unit and the taluk of Srivilliputtur by Tirumangalam Unit respectively coming under the immediate jurisdiction of Sivaganga and Madurai National Malaria Eradication Programme Sub-zones and overall jurisdiction of Madurai National Malaria Eradication Programme Zone. The entire population of 27.74 lakhs of the District has been fully covered.

From the point of view of malaria eradication, hilly terrain, coastal tracts, riverine areas and Rameswaram Islands were taken up for special coverage with two rounds of D. D. T. residual spraying since 1958-59 and the rest of the territory for one round of spraying since 1959-60 under the first phase of the activities (viz) Attack phase. Malaria vigilance operations, under the second phase of the activities (viz) Surveillance phase, were instituted since 1960-61 which comprises of Active Surveillance and Passive Surveillance. The Active Surveillance is a fever detection programme undertaken by fortnightly visits to each household in the State by Surveillance workers with a rigid field supervision pattern, so as to save out any possible malarial infection in the community. The Passive Surveillance is also a fever detection programme to similarly combat possibly malarial infections primarily from among the reporting fever cases at the medical institutions, with the medical practitioners and others a system of voluntary agencies, picked out from the socially minded populace, has also been in vogue for similar objectives.

*Filariases:*—This disease is prevalent in Malaipatti in Aruppukkottai Taluk and Measalur in Sattur Taluk. A special scheme is in operation under the control of Regional Malarialogist, Thanjavur.

Filarial Surveys have been carried out in certain areas of Ramanathapuram District to assess the endemicity of Filariasis and to chalk out various measures to control the spread of the disease. The following Panchayats and Municipalities have been found to be endemic for filariasis :— (1) Malaipatti Panchayat, (2) Devakottai Municipality, (3) Paramagudi Municipality, (4) Ilayankudi Panchayat, (5) Ramanathapuram Municipality, (6) Musaluar Panchayat, and (7) Karaikkudi Municipality. Out of these, the following local bodies are carrying out anti-filariasis schemes approved by Government under the grant-in-aid programme:— (1) Paramagudi Municipality, (2) Devakottai Municipality, (3) Karaikkudi Municipality and (4) Malaipatti Panchayat. The other local bodies are being persuaded to adopt the scheme. The working of the grant-in-aid schemes of anti-filariasis measures,

is periodically inspected by the Regional Malariologist, Thanjavur and suitable advice, suggestions and remarks are given to improve the efficiency of the working of the Scheme.

**Kala Azar:**—Though the disease was common in Kilakkarai and Tiruppullani in Ramanathapuram Taluk, consequent to the advent of N.M.E.P. there is no cases now.

**Cholera:**—It is one of the dangerous epidemic disease. There is no outbreak of cholera since 1955. But in the last quarter of the year 1963 the Public Health Staff had to face the epidemic of cholera. First cholera broke out in Tiruvengampet in Tiruvadanai Taluk which was said to be an imported one. The public health staff rushed to Thiruvengampet and took preventive measures. Instructions were issued to the Commissioners of Panchayat Union Councils and Municipalities, Executive Officers of Town Panchayats for taking anti-cholera measures. Cholera Inspectors and Cholera Overseers were posted in the affected areas. Anti-cholera inoculations were given of vulnerable groups of population such as residents of slums, people residing on the banks of the river and channel side. Preventive measures were taken such as systematic chlorination of water. Tightening up of local sanitary measures with a view to eliminate fly nuisance by paying strict attention to conservancy arrangements. And adequate quantities of medicines, drugs, etc. were stored to meet any emergency by the Public Health Staff. Proper arrangements were made then and there for the isolation of cases of cholera and their treatment. Out of 208 attacks in Ramanathapuram District during 1963 only 81 cases proved fatal. Cultures of the affected patients were taken and sent to the King Institute, Guindy for test. There were 128 attacks with 79 deaths due to cholera in the year 1964. Now the situation is under control.

**Dangerous and Offensive Trades :**—The Public Health Staff attend a major portions in the D & O. Trades. They are preparing the annual list of D. & O. Trades. Inspection of factories, recommending the licence, collecting of licence fee, launching of prosecution against the defaulters, etc.

**Prevention of Food Adulteration:**—Towards checking the sale of adulterated food articles to safe guard the health of the people, the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (Central Act No. 37) are enforced in the local bodies, mentioned in the appended statement. For this purpose these local bodies take every month the prescribed quota of samples of food articles from local dealers and send for analysis.

The sanitary inspectors of municipalities and the panchayats and also the Health Inspectors attached to the panchayat unions and the Primary Health Centres have been nominated as Food Inspectors

under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. These officers take samples of food articles in their respective areas and attend to other work relating to the enforcement of the Act. They attend to the anti-food adulteration work in addition to their normal public health work.

The District Health Officer, Ramanathapuram has been nominated as Special Food Inspector as in the other districts, for sampling of food articles under the Act from big manufacturers and wholesalers and also to keep close vigil over the export and import trade in food articles within the district.

*Fairs and Festivals:*—The Ramanathapuram District is one of the most important districts for the fairs and festivals in the State. Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi are the most important Hindu Religious pilgrim centres in India. Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi attract pilgrims throughout the year both from the State and all over India. 18 notified major festivals and 20 major non-notified festivals and 20 minor festivals are conducted in this District. Two cattle fairs one at Kanniseripudur and another at Kalaiyarkoil are notable ones. A minor cattle fair at Palayampatti is also held every year.

Sanitary arrangements are made to prevent the outbreak of epidemics by the controlling authority by the entire co-operation and supervision of public health staff. So far no fair or festival is banned due to epidemic situation.

#### UNICEF<sup>1</sup>.

*Milk Medicine Programme.*—With the assistance of the UNICEF, a Long Range Supplemental Skim Milk Feeding Programme is implemented in Ramanathapuram District as in other districts towards combating mal-nutrition among the children under 14 years and the expectant and nursing mothers who constitute the most vulnerable groups of the population. Under this programme, the beneficiaries selected are given daily 1.25 ozs. of skim milk powder re-constituted into about 9 ozs. of liquid milk. The distribution of milk is arranged mainly through Primary Health Centres and the Maternity Child Health Centres under Government and those attached to the municipalities and the panchayat unions in the District, accordingly to the Plan of operation worked out every year. The plan in respect of Ramanathapuram District for 1965-66 covers about 7,400 daily beneficiaries and 260 feeding centres. On the average, about 20—40 mothers and children are receiving milk at each centre daily under this programme. The skim milk powder stocks required for this programme are received as gift from the UNICEF. The allotment of stock for Ramanathapuram District is supplied to the District Health Officer who distributes it to the various agencies implementing the programme in the district. For the proper implementation of this programme in the district, a District Co-ordinating Committee has been constituted with the District Collector as the Chairman and the District Health Officer as the Secretary.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF—United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.



TABLE, I.

Statement showing details regarding the patients treated in the various medical institutions during the year 1964.

| Serial number and name of Medical Institution.       | Class. | Total patients treated (In door). | Ratio of death percent to the treated person (In door) | Number of beds |        | Daily average number (In door). | Total number treated (Out door). | Average daily attendance (Out door). | Total patients both (In door and Out door). |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|  |        |                                   |  | Men.           | Women. |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |
| (1)  | (2)    | (3)                               | (4)  | (5)            | (6)    | (7)                             | (8)                              | (9)                                  | (10)  |
| 1. Government Headquarters Hospital, Ramanathapuram. | I      | 80,390                            | 2  | 45             | 55     | 218                             | 82,2,858                         | 777                                  | 3,63  |
| 2. Government Hospital, Mudukulattur.                | I      | 2,620                             | 3  | 20             | 24     | 84                              | 61,511                           | 169                                  | 64,031                                      |
| 3. Government Hospital, Aruppukottai.                | I      | 3,396                             | 2  | 31             | 35     | 97                              | 55,133                           | 418                                  | 58,529                                      |
| 4. Government Hospital, Sattur . .                   | I      | 1,817                             | 3  | 18             | 22     | 42                              | 53,850                           | 294                                  | 55,667                                      |
| 5. Government Hospital, Srivilliputtur.              | I      | 4,560                             | 2  | 25             | 25     | 102                             | 50,388                           | 433                                  | 54,938                                      |
| 6. Government Hospital, Sivagange.                   | I      | 3,120                             | 2  | 25             | 25     | 82                              | 1,52,633                         | 421                                  | 1,55,753                                    |
| 7. Government Hospital, Ramewaram.                   | I      | 1,917                             | 3  | 7              | 9      | 34                              | 44,174                           | 333                                  | 46,091                                      |
| 8. Government Hospital, Pudukkadam.                  | II     | —                                 | 1  | 3              | 3      | ..                              | 28,631                           | 92                                   | 28,631                                      |
| 9. Government Hospital, Panakkulam.                  | II     | —                                 | 1  | 6              | 6      | —                               | 12,009                           | 33                                   | 12,009                                      |
| 10. Government Hospital, Kilakkarai                  | I      | 436                               | 2  | 4              | 6      | 8                               | 32,213                           | 238                                  | 32,649                                      |

Statement showing details regarding the patients treated in the various medical institutions during the year 1964.

| Serial number and name of Medical Institution.                    | Class. | Total patients treated (In door). | Ratio of death per cent to the treated person (In door). | Number of beds. |        | Daily average number (In door). | Total number treated (Out door). | Average daily attendance (Out door). | Total patients both in door and (Out door). |
|---|--------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|   |        |                                   |  | Men.            | Women. |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |
| (1)   | (2)    | (3)                               | (4)  | (5)             | (6)    | (7)                             | (8)                              | (9)                                  | (10)  |
| 11. Government Hospital, [Rajapalayam.                            | I      | 4,249                             | 3  | 13              | 33     | 91                              | 1,88,093                         | 515                                  | 1,92,341                                    |
| 12. Government Hospital, Virudhunagar.                            | I      | 5,367                             | 3  | 40              | 78     | 187                             | 70,187                           | 398                                  | 75,534                                      |
| 13. Government Hospital, Sivakasi.                                | I      | 1,446                             | 3  | 20              | 14     | 29                              | 92,826                           | 190                                  | 94,372                                      |
| 14. Government Hospital, Tiruvadanai.                             | II     | 54                                | 1  | 3               | 4      | 1                               | 18,124                           | 137                                  | 18,178                                      |
| 15. Government Hospital, Kilasa-<br>volpatti.                     | II     | 101                               | 1  | 3               | 3      | 2                               | 7,925                            | 70                                   | 7,926                                       |
| 16. Government Hospital, Pulan-<br>guriobi.                       | II     | 70                                | 1  | 6               | —      | 2                               | 3,470                            | 23                                   | 3,540                                       |
| 17. Government Hospital, Kanadu-<br>kathan.                       | I      | 235                               | 2  | 3               | 4      | 3                               | 9,245                            | 90                                   | 9,483                                       |
| 18. Government Hospital, Kanda-<br>nur.                           | I      | 795                               | 2  | 9               | 9      | 18                              | 19,351                           | 165                                  | 20,146                                      |
| 19. Government Women and<br>Children Hospital, Kanadu-<br>kathan. | I      | 1,169                             | 2  | —               | 40     | 35                              | 16,197                           | 116                                  | 17,366                                      |

|   |    |       |    |    |    |    |        |     |        |
|---|----|-------|----|----|----|----|--------|-----|--------|
| 20. Government Women and Children Hospital, Paramagudi.     | I  | 2,648 | 2  | .. | 28 | 37 | 37,002 | 177 | 39,050 |
| 21. Government Women and Children Hospital, Sivaganga.      | I  | 768   | 2  | .. | 16 | 21 | 32,382 | 231 | 33,150 |
| 22. Government Women and Children Hospital, Iyankudi.       | I  | 786   | 2  | .. | 13 | 14 | 22,538 | 143 | 23,360 |
| 23. Government Women and Children Hospital, Pallattur.      | II | 365   | 3  | .. | 3  | 2  | 6,074  | 51  | 6,320  |
| 24. Government Women and Children Hospital, Pulangurichchi. | I  | 613   | 2  | .. | 12 | 16 | 14,498 | 82  | 15,111 |
| 25. Government Leprosy Subsidiary Centre, Aruppukkottai.    | II | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35,267 | 97  | 35,267 |
| 26. Government T.B. Sanatorium, Devakottai Road.            | I  | 1,318 | .. | 25 | 35 | 25 | 5,448  | 26  | 6,666  |
| 27. Government Dispensary, Devakottai.                      | II | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27,691 | 351 | 27,691 |
| 28. Government Dispensary, Paramagudi.                      | II | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22,321 | 184 | 22,321 |
| 29. Government Dispensary, Tirupattur.                      | II | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30,135 | 214 | 30,135 |
| 30. Primary Health Centre, Kariyapatti.                     | I  | ..    | .. | .. | 3  | .. | 7,152  | 37  | 7,152  |
| 31. Primary Health Centre, Kannisripudur.                   | I  | ..    | .. | 3  | 3  | .. | 13,841 | 28  | 13,841 |
| 32. Primary Health Centre, Kadaladi.                        | II | ..    | .. | 3  | 3  | .. | 5,205  | 15  | 5,205  |
| 33. Primary Health Centre, Kalaiyarkoil.                    | I  | 147   | 1  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 15,284 | 128 | 15,431 |

TABLE I—cont.

Statement showing details regarding the patients treated in the various medical institutions during the year 1964—cont.

| Serial number and name of Medical Institution. | Class. | Total patients treated (In door). | Ratio of death per cent to the treated person (In door) | Number of beds |        | Daily average number (In door). | Total number treated (Out door). | Average daily attendance (Out door). | Total patients both (In door and Out door). |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|  |        |                                   |   | Men.           | Women. |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |
| (1)  | (2)    | (3)                               | (4)   | (5)            | (6)    | (7)                             | (8)                              | (9)                                  | (10)  |
| 34. Primary Health Centre, Kalanaiakampatti.   | I      | 114                               | 1   | 3              | 3      | 3                               | 25,671                           | 71                                   | 25,785                                      |
| 35. Primary Health Centre, Reddyipatti.        | I      | 225                               | 2   | 3              | 3      | 5                               | 30,557                           | 84                                   | 30,782                                      |
| 36. Primary Health Centre, Parthibanoor.       | I      | 118                               | 1   | 3              | 3      | 3                               | 1,69,290                         | 108                                  | 1,69,408                                    |
| 37. Primary Health Centre, Peraiyur.           | I      | ..                                | ..  | 3              | 3      | ..                              | 49,328                           | 135                                  | 49,328                                      |
| 38. Primary Health Centre, Piranmalai.         | I      | 233                               | 3   | 3              | 3      | 5                               | 56,129                           | 164                                  | 56,393                                      |
| 39. Primary Health Centre, Pandukudi.          | I      | 193                               | 1   | 3              | 3      | 3                               | 48,025                           | 366                                  | 48,208                                      |
| 40. Primary Health Centre, Uppattur.           | I      | 40                                | 1   | 3              | 3      | 1                               | 18,615                           | 51                                   | 18,555                                      |
| 41. Primary Health Centre, Sembanur.           | I      | ..                                | ..  | 3              | 3      | ..                              | 27,800                           | 80                                   | 27,800                                      |
| 42. Primary Health Centre, Tiruvegampet.       | I      | 227                               | 2   | 3              | 3      | 4                               | 21,490                           | 68                                   | 21,717                                      |

|   |     |     |    |    |    |    |        |     |        |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|--------|-----|--------|
| 43. Primary Health Centre,<br>Muthanandal.          | I   | 204 | 2  | 3  | 3  | 4  | 17,298 | 45  | 17,502 |
| 44. Primary Health Centre, Kannur.                  | I   | ..  | .. | 3  | 3  | .. | 38,662 | 105 | 38,662 |
| 45. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Mantapam.        | II  | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33,614 | 122 | 33,614 |
| 46. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Itaiyanhudi.     | II  | 53  | 1  | .. | .. | 6  | 14,992 | 77  | 15,045 |
| 47. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Kamudi.          | II  | 154 | 2  | .. | .. | 6  | 29,256 | 233 | 29,410 |
| 48. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>A biramam        | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11,249 | 68  | 11,249 |
| 49. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Truchuli.        | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35,673 | 93  | 35,673 |
| 50. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>M. Reddiyapatti. | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,249 | 29  | 10,249 |
| 51. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Pandalgudi.      | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31,307 | 126 | 31,307 |
| 52. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>T. Veppankulam.  | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,966  | 25  | 8,966  |
| 53. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Kalkurichehi.    | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,093  | 26  | 5,093  |
| 54. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Watrap.          | II  | 26  | 1  | .. | .. | .. | 7,304  | 49  | 7,330  |
| 55. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Sethur.          | III | ..  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26,513 | 80  | 26,513 |

TABLE I—cont.

Statement showing details regarding the patients treated in the various medical institutions during the year 1964—cont.

| Serial number and name of Medical Institution.    | Class. | Total patients treated (In door). | Ratio of death per cent to the treated person (In door) | Number of beds |        | Daily average number (In door). | Total number treated (Out door). | Average daily attendance (Out door). | Total patients both (In door and Out door). |
|---|--------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|   |        |                                   |   | Men.           | Women. |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |
| (1)   | (2)    | (3)                               | (4)   | (5)            | (6)    | (7)                             | (8)                              | (9)                                  | (10)  |
| 56. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Elayirampennai.   | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 18,703                           | 104                                  | 18,703                                      |
| 57. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Neumeni.          | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 5,094                            | 27                                   | 5,094                                       |
| 58. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruthangal.      | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 20,245                           | 64                                   | 20,245                                      |
| 59. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tirumanjalai.     | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 18,937                           | 63                                   | 18,937                                      |
| 60. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Paganeri.         | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 1,2083                           | 74                                   | 12,063                                      |
| 61. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Nattarasankottai. | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 10,050                           | 83                                   | 10,050                                      |
| 62. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Manamadurai.      | II     | 338                               | 3   | ..             | ..     | 11                              | 34,291                           | 196                                  | 34,629                                      |
| 63. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tiruppuvauam.     | III    | 156                               | 2   | ..             | ..     | 13                              | 21,485                           | 135                                  | 21,641                                      |
| 64. Panchayat Union Dispensary, Tirupbachchetti.  | III    | ..                                | ..  | ..             | ..     | ..                              | 3,629                            | 23                                   | 3,629                                       |

|  |     |    |    |    |    |    |        |     |        |
|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|-----|--------|
| 65. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Tondi.              | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14,671 | 100 | 14,671 |
| 66. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Shanmuganathapuram. | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23,736 | 70  | 23,736 |
| 67. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Vellayapuram.       | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,294  | 17  | 2,294  |
| 68. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>R. S. Mangalam.     | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,808 | 108 | 10,808 |
| 69. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Tiruppalaikudi.     | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,305  | 48  | 7,305  |
| 70. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Tirukkoshiyur.      | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11,790 | 70  | 11,790 |
| 71. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Kallal.             | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18,134 | 100 | 18,134 |
| 72. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Nachiarapuram.      | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,709  | 23  | 7,709  |
| 73. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Athangudi.          | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13,413 | 37  | 13,413 |
| 74. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>O. Siruvayal.       | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,305  | 24  | 4,305  |
| 75. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Singampunari.       | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25,215 | 134 | 25,215 |
| 76. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Muraiyur.           | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,408  | 63  | 5,408  |
| 77. Panchayat Union Dispensary,<br>Eriyur.             | III | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,640  | 47  | 6,640  |

TABLE I—cont.

Statement showing details regarding the patients treated in the various medical institutions during the year 1934—cont.

| Serial number and name of medical institutions.         | Cta.s. | Total patients treated (Indoor). | Ratio of death per cent to the treated person (In door). | Number of beds. |        | Daily average number (In door). | Total number treated (Out door). | Average daily attendance (Out door). | Total patients both (In door and Out door). |
|---|--------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|   |        |                                  |  | Men.            | Women. |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |
| (1)   | (2)    | (3)                              | (4)  | (5)             | (6)    | (7)                             | (8)                              | (9)                                  | (10)  |
| 78. Municipal Women, and Children Hospital, Karaikkudi. | II     | 115                              | 1  | ..              | ..     | 3                               | 8,329                            | 44                                   | 8,444                                       |
| 79. Municipal Siddha Dispensary, Rajapalayam.           | III    | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 55,591                           | 75                                   | 55,591                                      |
| 80. Municipal Siddha Dispensary, Virudhunagar.          | III    | 128                              | 2  | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 51,326                           | 235                                  | 51,454                                      |
| 81. Municipal Siddha Dispensary, Aruppukkottai.         | III    | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 36,922                           | 101                                  | 36,922                                      |
| 82. Municipal Hospital, Karaikkudi.                     | II     | 107                              | 1  | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 10,388                           | 93                                   | 10,495                                      |
| 83. Special Police Force Dispensary, Sivakasi.          | II     | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 3,673                            | 21                                   | 3,673                                       |
| 84. Municipal Women and Children Hospital, Devakottai.  | I      | 1,062                            | 3  | ..              | ..     | 21                              | 24,573                           | 67                                   | 25,625                                      |
| 85. Railway Dispensary, Mantapam.                       | II     | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 21,542                           | 57                                   | 21,542                                      |
| 86. Railway Dispensary, Dhanushkodi.                    | II     | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 3,572                            | 8                                    | 3,572                                       |
| 87. Railway Dispensary, Karaikkudi.                     | II     | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 1,493                            | 51                                   | 1,493                                       |
| 88. Health Unit, S. Railway, Mantapam.                  | III    | ..                               | ..   | ..              | ..     | ..                              | 1,893                            | 58                                   | 1,893                                       |



|   |    |          |    |     |     |       |           |       |           |
|---|----|----------|----|-----|-----|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 89. Kalyanakrishna<br>Ariakkudi. Hospital,  | V  | 102      | .. | 4   | 4   | 5     | 19,574    | 152   | 19,679    |
| 90. Dayapuram Hospital and Home<br>for Lepers, Manamadurai.                             | V  | 378      | 1  | 214 | 36  | 279   | 614       | 55    | 931       |
| 91. Swedish Mission Hospital,<br>Tiruppattur.   | V  | 4,124    | 2  | 36  | 100 | 119   | 12,858    | 225   | 16,982    |
| 92. C. S. I. Hospital, Kilanjinai ..  | V  | 188      | 4  | 30  | 37  | 8     | 5,954     | 124   | 6,142     |
| 93. St. Martin Hospital, Ramanatha-<br>puram.   | V  | 2,601    | 2  | 52  | 77  | 78    | 3,273     | 91    | 10,87     |
| 94. M. A. P. Women and Children<br>Hospital, Kandamankam.                               | V  | 123      | .. | ..  | 12  | 10    | 5,552     | 55    | 5,677     |
| DISTRICT TOTAL.   |    |          |    |     |     |       |           |       |           |
| 1. Class 'A' (Government General<br>Hospital and Dispensaries).                         | .. | 1,13,165 | 2  | 361 | 419 | 1,011 | 17,87,543 | 6,649 | 18,90,708 |
| 2. Class 'B' (Government Female<br>Hospital and Dispensaries).                          | .. | 6,189    | 2  | ..  | 116 | 125   | 1,28,686  | 1,800 | 1,31,875  |
| 3. Class 'C' Municipals and Pan-<br>chayat Union Dispensaries<br>and Private Hospitals. | .. | 9,645    | 2  | 366 | 266 | 506   | 7,82,275  | 3,895 | 7,91,313  |

TABLE 2.

Statement showing the treatment of various diseases and the number of deaths in the District during the year 1963.

| Serial number and disease.   | (1) | Total    |         |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|---------|
|                              |     | Treated. | Deaths. |
|                              |     | (2)      | (3)     |
| 1. Tuberculosis (Respirates) | ..  | ..       | ..      |
| 2. Syphilis                  | ..  | 14,351   | 15      |
| 3. Typhoid                   | ..  | 10,080   | 5       |
| 4. Cholera                   | ..  | 6,855    | 37      |
| 5. Small-pox                 | ..  | 218      | 17      |
| 6. Malaria                   | ..  | 113      | 4       |
| 7. Leprosy                   | ..  | 135      | 1       |
| 8. Filariasis                | ..  | 7,263    | 3       |
| 9. Kala Azar                 | ..  | 52       | ..      |
| 10. Tetanus                  | ..  | 123      | ..      |
| 11. Poliomyelitis            | ..  | 2,525    | 53      |
| 12. Asthma                   | ..  | 88       | ..      |
|                              | ..  | 5,269    | 10      |

TABLE 3.

**National Leprosy Control Programme—Control work done in Ramanathapuram District as on 30th September 1971.<sup>1</sup>**

| <i>Serial number and the name of taluk.</i> | (1) | (2) | <i>Population examined.</i> | <i>Total cases detected by survey and otherwise.</i> | <i>Total cases under treatment.</i> | <i>Total number of healthy contacts under observation.</i> | <i>Prevalence rate [percentage of column (4) to column (3)].</i> |
|---|-----|-----|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|   |     |     |                             | (3)  | (4)                                 | (5)  | (6)  |
| 1. Aruppukkottai .. ..                      | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 2,539  | 1,449                               | 8,844  | 2.1  |
| 2. Mudukulattur .. ..                       | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 218  | 197                                 | 1,104  | 1.3  |
| 3. Ramanathapuram .. ..                     | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 355  | 260                                 | 1,528  | 1.2  |
| 4. Sattur .. ..                             | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 518  | 314                                 | 1,697  | 2.1  |
| 5. Sivaganga .. ..                          | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 1,403  | 831                                 | 5,586  | 1.5  |
| 6. Srivilliputtur .. ..                     | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 416  | 263                                 | 1,293  | 1.6  |
| 7. Tirupattur .. ..                         | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 956  | 769                                 | 3,518  | 1.8  |
| 8. Tiruvadanai .. ..                        | ..  | ..  | ..                          | 325  | 177                                 | 1,116  | 1.1  |
| <b>District Total</b> ..                    | ..  | ..  | 3,94,005                    | <b>6,730</b>   | <b>4,260</b>                        | <b>24,688</b>  | <b>1.7</b>   |

1. Source : State Leprosy Officer, Madras-6.

TABLE 4.  
The table below shows the number of births and deaths with the principal causes of mortality during the period 1941-1964.

| Year. | (1) | Births. | Deaths. | (2)   | (3)  | Deaths due to<br>Cholera. | Deaths due to<br>Small-pox. | (4)  | (5)    | (6)   | (7)   | (8)  | (9)                                       |
|-------|-----|---------|---------|-------|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|--|---|
|       |     |         |         |       |      |                           |                             |      |        |       |       |  |   |
| 1941  | ..  | 64,267  | 42,078  | 4     | 32   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 12,847 | 3,366 | 5,293 | Deaths due to<br>Dysentery and<br>Diarrhoea. | Deaths due to<br>Respiratory<br>Diseases. |
| 1942  | ..  | 71,128  | 42,630  | 582   | 82   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 12,379 | 3,339 | 5,312 |  |   |
| 1943  | ..  | 60,584  | 48,530  | 4,489 | 62   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 13,129 | 3,573 | 5,463 |  |   |
| 1944  | ..  | 60,904  | 46,365  | 251   | 276  | 1                         | 1                           | 1    | 13,962 | 2,917 | 5,807 |  |   |
| 1945  | ..  | 58,826  | 43,343  | 62    | 690  | 3                         | 3                           | 3    | 14,594 | 2,274 | 4,359 |  |   |
| 1946  | ..  | 60,796  | 37,801  | 3     | 325  | 2                         | 2                           | 2    | 11,189 | 2,094 | 4,773 |  |   |
| 1947  | ..  | 65,906  | 37,550  | 985   | 158  | 2                         | 2                           | 2    | 10,302 | 2,236 | 4,520 |  |   |
| 1948  | ..  | 61,018  | 41,720  | 3,324 | 482  | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 10,270 | 2,690 | 4,813 |  |   |
| 1949  | ..  | 64,928  | 37,046  | 85    | 75   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 9,440  | 2,579 | 4,378 |  |   |
| 1950  | ..  | 65,633  | 42,917  | 1,084 | 666  | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 10,180 | 3,063 | 4,401 |  |   |
| 1951  | ..  | 34,468  | N.A.    | N.A.  | N.A. | N.A.                      | N.A.                        | N.A. | N.A.   | N.A.  | N.A.  |  |   |
| 1952  | ..  | 37,815  | N.A.    | N.A.  | N.A. | N.A.                      | N.A.                        | N.A. | N.A.   | N.A.  | N.A.  |  |   |
| 1953  | ..  | 43,815  | 30,878  | 1,631 | 24   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | N.A.   | N.A.  | N.A.  |  |   |
| 1954  | ..  | 41,803  | 20,529  | N.A.  | N.A. | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | N.A.   | N.A.  | N.A.  |  |   |
| 1955  | ..  | 53,591  | 23,268  | Nil.  | 44   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 5,972  | Nil.  | 2,359 |  |   |
| 1956  | ..  | 43,240  | 22,475  | Nil.  | 51   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 5,743  | 1,666 | 1,950 |  |   |
| 1957  | ..  | 35,548  | 19,918  | 12    | 211  | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 4,743  | 1,420 | 1,593 |  |   |
| 1958  | ..  | 37,632  | 17,595  | 123   | 58   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 4,440  | 959   | N.A.  |  |   |
| 1959  | ..  | 41,165  | 18,862  | Nil.  | 7    | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 4,400  | 877   | 1,568 |  |   |
| 1960  | ..  | 35,211  | 18,012  | Nil.  | 20   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 3,875  | 978   | 1,332 |  |   |
| 1961  | ..  | 30,840  | 14,044  | Nil.  | 58   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 3,232  | 610   | 786   |  |   |
| 1962  | ..  | 16,042  | 7,498   | Nil.  | 227  | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 2,635  | 927   | 784   |  |   |
| 1963  | ..  | 36,507  | 17,905  | 98    | 183  | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 2,648  | 778   | 1,286 |  |   |
| 1964  | ..  | 44,244  | 18,363  | 99    | 70   | ..                        | ..                          | ..   | 3,652  | 637   | 1,447 |  |   |

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

#### PROHIBITION

The introduction of prohibition in the State was one of the most important social service measures undertaken by the Government. In the Ramanathapuram District, prohibition was introduced on the 2nd October 1948. The introduction of total prohibition in the State by 1948 is the outcome of protracted agitation carried on from the beginning of the 19th century. The agitation was, to begin with, one for temperance. About 1886, the leaders of the Temperance Movement like Mr. Hall Caine took a leading part in passing a resolution in the House of Commons condemning the excise administration of India and in directing the Indian Government to bring about steps to reduce drunkenness in the Country. The Indian National Congress also made an appeal to the Government "to pass measures like the Marine Liquor Law of America and Sir William Wilfred Lawson's Permissive Bill or the Local Option Act and to impose an additional tax upon intoxicants not intended to be used as medicine"<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, the Government of Madras took the lead and introduced certain modifications in the excise administration so as to realise "the maximum of revenue with the minimum consumption". Between 1906 and 1921 the movement for temperance gained momentum and several steps were taken in the Madras State for discouraging the consumption of liquor and toddy. The closure of arrack shops in toddy-drinking areas and the prohibition of the supply of liquor in certain places in the State were important among these measures. The price of liquor was also enhanced. In short, the Government of Madras took up two methods to promote temperance, viz., to rise the tax on liquor without encouraging illicit distillation and to restrict the number of shops in order to minimise the temptation to drink. But these steps did not bring about a decrease in the consumption of liquor and these measures were revoked. In 1919-20, the Government ordered for the closure of toddy shops in the toddy drinking areas with a view to reduce temptation. This was first introduced in the taluks of Tiruvadanai and Paramagudi of Ramanathapuram District. New shops were not permitted to be opened within the five miles around the area under experiment. Though there was no increase in the consumption of toddy, there was a considerable increase in the consumption of foreign liquor. There was also the menace of illicit distillation and smuggling in the neighbouring district of Tirunelveli. But however, the experiment was continued in the two taluks of Ramanathapuram District, till the introduction of prohibition in the whole State. Some of the leaders of the Indian National Congress like Mahatma Gandhi, Thiru C. Rajagopalachari

1. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya : *The History of the Congress*, 1915, Page 83.

and others took up the cause of prohibition and conducted an agitation all through the country against the drink evil. In 1921 the first campaign was organised in the Madras State by way of picketing the toddy shops. During the period of Non-co-operation Movement, the Congress also launched on a scheme of social boycott of the persons who drank liquors. As a result of the agitation, there was a loss of about 60 lakhs of rupees in 1921-22 in the excise revenue<sup>1</sup>. The zeal of Ramachandran, an eminent lawyer of Sivaganga, in the social uplift was no less a factor, and he was the President of the Ramanathapuram District Temperance Committee. He conducted the deliberations of the Temperance conference as its President. During 1921-27 a number of measures were introduced to promote prohibition. In this period, a Temperance Bill and two Local Option Bills were introduced in the Madras Legislature with a view to extend prohibition to the areas to which people wanted an extension of a prohibition. The local Option Bills recognised the principle of self-determination on the part of the local bodies in the matter of restricting the sale of intoxicating liquor within their respective jurisdiction. But this principle did not prove to be effective in bringing about a reduction in the consumption of liquor. Abatement of drinking in one place led to increased drinking in the neighbouring places. Smuggling and illicit distillation also made the local option a failure.

The agitation for the introduction of prohibition was continued by the Congress Party throughout the State. In 1930-31 during the Civil Disobedience Movement Thiru C. Rajagopalachari published two valuable booklets namely, *Indian Prohibition Manual* in English and "*Ur Kattuppadu*" in Tamil which dealt at length the different aspects of drink and its evils and made a vigorous plea for complete prohibition. From 1931, the agitation against drink evil took a new turn, it was no longer for temperance, it wanted total prohibition. When in July 1939, the Congress Party formed the ministry in the Madras State under the leadership of Thiru C. Rajagopalachari a comprehensive prohibition legislation was introduced in the Madras Legislative Assembly. This was called the Prohibition Act of 1937 (Madras Act X of 1937) and was the first of its kind in the whole of India. Prohibition was first introduced in the Salem District from 1st October, 1937. Encouraged by the success in the Salem District, the Government extended it to the districts of Chittoor and Cudappah from 1st October, 1938 and to North Arcot from 1st October, 1939.

The Prohibition Act of 1937 exempted consumption of liquor for medicinal, scientific, religious or such other purposes. Licences were also issued for the tapping of trees for the drawing of sweet toddy for manufacturing jaggery. Permits were also issued to those who required for personal consumption on grounds of health. The task of enforcing the provisions of the Act was entrusted to the police.

<sup>1</sup> Strathie, B.N., *Excise and Temperance in Madras, 1922*, Page 60.

In 1939, when the Congress Ministry in Madras Province resigned the prospects of extending prohibition to the remaining districts of the State became very remote. Though, prohibition was successful to begin with, it subsequently failed due to phenomenal increase in illicit distillation and other offences against liquor laws. Moreover the co-operation of the people for ensuring the success of prohibition decreased, and their enthusiasm for it rapidly waned. Meanwhile, the main attention of the Government was directed towards war efforts and no adequate attention was bestowed to make prohibition a success. In November 1943, the Prohibition Act XXII of 1943 was enacted and suspended prohibition in the four districts where they were in force. Toddy shops were reopened in these districts from 1st January 1944. But this was for a temporary period only and in 1946 when the Indian National Congress once again assumed Office, it introduced prohibition again in eight districts of the State. By 1948 prohibition was extended throughout the State. On 2nd October 1948 prohibition was introduced in the Ramanathapuram District and from that date the Prohibition Act of 1937 and its amendments came to be enforced in the District. The enforcement of the provisions of the Act was entrusted to the Police in some districts, while in others to the Excise Department. Ramanathapuram and other eight districts came under the Excise Department. The Commissioner of Excise Department or the Commissioner of Prohibition was in charge of controlling the administration of the Prohibition laws in these districts. He was assisted by a Deputy Commissioner who was in charge of the preventive side. A District Prohibition Officer was appointed in Ramanathapuram District to enforce the Prohibition Act. He was under the immediate control of the District Collector. District Prohibition Officer was assisted by Deputy Prohibition Officers, who were in charge of different circles into which the whole district was divided for administrative purpose.

A Special Development Officer was appointed in the District to undertake the ameliorative measures necessitated by the introduction of prohibition. He was assisted by Assistant Development Officers, Rural Recreation Officers, Village Guides and Ballad Singers. The amelioration work was supervised and controlled first by the Revenue Department and later by the Co-operative Department. These officers promoted rural development and recreational activities by setting up Grama Sangams or Village Uplift Committees. The toddy tappers who were thrown out of employment consequent on the introduction of prohibition were provided with new employments through the formation of co-operative societies in the District.

The Palm Gur Industry in this State was an offshoot of this policy and has grown into a village industry which is next only to agriculture and hand-loom weaving. To have an effective check

over the prevention of toddy-tapping a system of licensing was introduced and the tappers had to obtain licenses through Jaggery Manufacturing Co-operative Society started for their benefit. There are 171 jaggery manufacturing co-operative societies in the District which were formed for the benefit of the tappers. The Ramnad District Jaggery Co-operative Marketing Federation was started in 1954 with a view to help the primary societies with funds placed at its disposal, to assist them in co-operative marketing of jaggery and other palm products and generally to co-ordinate and expand these activities. It had 152 primary societies and 19 individuals in its rolls with a total paid up share capital of about Rs. 76,000. The District Federation is running *neera* parlours in the district and catering the *neera* to the public in hygienic condition besides attending to co-operative marketing of jaggery and palm fibre. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission gives ample financial assistance in the shape of loans and grants for the development of palm gur industry through the State Khadi and Village Industries Board and this assistance is utilised to provide working capital, funds for construction of godowns and purchase of implements, colonisation and plantation schemes, etc., connected with the palm gur industry.

In 1950, when the Indian Constitution came into effect it included the article 107 as a directive principle of State Policy by which the "State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health." On this directive different States in India introduced prohibition through various legislations. In the Madras State, the Madras Prohibition Act of 1937 was amended by the Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Act of 1958 (Act VIII of 1958). By this amendment, the enforcement of prohibition laws in Ramanathapuram and other districts which was till then with the Excise Department was handed over to the Police Department. Two mobile prohibition parties were set up for in the Ramanathapuram District one at Sivakasi and another at Sivaganga. The District Police apprehended offenders and enforced prohibition laws. Officials of all Departments, especially those of the Forest Department and the Village Officers were required to render assistance to the police in their task of enforcing prohibition laws in the District. The co-operation of the public was also enlisted by the Police through Taluk Prohibition Committees and a number of Village Vigilance Committees all over the District.

Some difficulties were experienced in the strict enforcement of prohibition. They were mainly due to the nefarious practices of the drug licence holders in the District, who supplied medicine with alcohol contents, illicit distillation and illicit tapping of toddy and fermented sweet toddy in areas where there were extensive *palmyra topes*.



The enforcement of prohibition laws was suspended in the State of Tamil Nadu with effect from August 30, 1971 by the Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Suspension of Operation) Act, 1971 (Tamil Nadu Act 33 of 1971).

The Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Suspension of Operation) Act, 1971 (Tamil Nadu Act 33 of 1971) suspends the operation of the whole of the Prohibition Act only in so far as it relates to liquor, and its provisions are effective in regard to intoxicating drugs.

The Tamil Nadu Excise Act, 1971 (Tamil Nadu Act 34 of 1971) has been enacted to amend the law relating to the production, manufacture, possession, import, export, transport purchase and sale of intoxicating liquor in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Excise Act, 1971 does not give cover to intoxicating drugs and Section 83 thereof enables the continuance of the existing rules under the Prohibition Act..

#### HARIJAN WELFARE.

According to the preamble of the Indian Constitution, the chief aim of the nation is to secure to all its citizens "Social, Economic and Political justice; equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual". The depressed classes of the Indian Society named by Mahatma Gandhi "Harijans" and designated as "the Scheduled Caste" by the Indian Constitution also come under the purview of the preamble. Several welfare activities have been undertaken by the Government of Madras to improve the status of the Harijans. Article 46 of the Constitution has envisaged certain safeguards to improve the status of the Harijans. The article states that "the States shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Government carrying out faithfully the spirit of the article have undertaken a number of development measures for the benefit of the Harijans and the other backward classes.

The cause of Harijan uplift was taken up by some Hindu social reformers and Christian missionaries during the 19th and early 20th century. These social reformers aimed at the removal of the social economic and religious inequalities among the people. But the evil of untouchability had become so deep rooted that these social reformers could achieve nothing substantial. In 1916, Dadabhoi Nawroji moved a resolution in the Imperial Legislative Council which was accepted by the Government of India. The Provincial governments were asked to implement the resolution. The Government of Madras were the first to implement the resolution and carried out an exhaustive enquiry with a view to improve the deplorable condition of the backward people. Mr. G. F. Paddison, I.C.S., was appointed in 1920 by the Government of Madras

as the Labour Commissioner to supervise the ameliorative measures necessary for the uplift of the Harijans. On the recommendation of Paddison several measures were undertaken to improve the condition of their living. Allotment of house-sites to Harijans either by assignment or by acquisition, improvement of sanitary amenities in the Harijan colonies like sinking of wells for drinking purposes, laying out roads, burial and burning grounds, etc., opening of schools and granting of scholarships were some of the measures undertaken. The Indian National Congress by this time took up the cause of eradicating untouchability and to a great extent succeeded in awakening the Hindus to the seriousness of this evil practice.

Ramachandran, B.A., B.L., an eminent lawyer of Sivaganga, commanded no small respect in the field of politics, education and social uplift of masses. He worked very hard for the advancement of the Adi-Dravida community and had institutions and night schools established for the diffusion of education to the youths of the community. He gave away large amounts of money for this purpose from out of his own personal earnings.<sup>1</sup>

He succeeded in getting admission for the Adi-Dravida boys as the free boarders in the hostel maintained by the Rajah of Sivaganga. It was the first hostel maintained out of chatram funds. What was utilised for feeding brahmins only was availed of to feed poor boys of all communities, especially Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. There was an attempted armed clash between Adi-Dravida and Ambalakarars in Iravuseri Nadu near Devakottai because of the oppression by the Ambalakarars in not allowing Adi-Dravida men and women from wearing cloth above waist. He risked his life and went to the spot in support of the rights of Adi-Dravida. Section 144 order was promulgated and there was no clash.

The movement for Harijan uplift gained greater importance under the first Congress Ministry in 1935. The Congress Ministry under the leadership of Thiru C. Rajagopalachari took up with great enthusiasm the task of removing the civil and social disabilities of the Harijans. Two Acts were passed in the legislature with a view to give the Harijans a better status in the society. They were the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act (Madras Act XXI of 1938) and the Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act (Madras Act XXII of 1939). The Removal of Civil Disabilities Act sought to remove many disabilities imposed on the Harijans by social custom and usage. This Act gave them easy access to public streams, rivers, wells, tanks, pathways, sanitary conveniences, etc.

The Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act gave the Harijans the right to free entry into the great temples at Madurai, Thanjavur, Palani and other places. It also gave protection to the Officers of the Government and the trustees of the temples

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1. Source: Madhva Rau, N., *Encyclopaedia of South India and Ceylon*, 1937-38, p-72.

against legal action for allowing the Harijans into the temples. The Harijans were also nominated as members to the local boards and the legislative bodies with a view to associate them with the administration of the State. But the resignation of the popular ministry in 1939 retarded the prospects of opening more temples to the Harijans. In 1947, soon after the National Government was formed it took up the problem of Harijan welfare and enacted three Acts viz., Madras Act XI of 1947, Madras Act V of 1947 and Madras Act XIII of 1949. The first Act threw open to Harijans all secular institutions like refreshment rooms, hotels, boarding and lodging houses, laundries, hair-dressing saloons, etc., the access of which was so far denied to them. Thus this Act prohibited all discrimination against the Harijans. This Act also contained provision to punish those dealers who refuse to sell any goods to the Harijans. The second Act threw open all the temples in the State to the Harijans. The third Act conferred on the Harijans the right to enter and offer worship in temples. The National Government immediately after it assumed office set apart a special fund of about one crore of rupees with a view to enable the Government to carry on the amelioration work among the Harijans. A State Harijan Welfare Committee was appointed to supervise the Harijan Welfare work. District Harijan Welfare Committees were also set up in the district with official and non-official members with the Collector as the Chairman. These committees met in once in three months offered useful suggestions to the district officials in carrying out Harijans welfare work. Village Vigilance Committees with Harijans and caste Hindu members were constituted for the purpose of watching closely the hardships that the Harijans were subjected to and to bring about a settlement in case of disputes among Harijans.

A separate department called the Harijan Welfare Department was established in 1949 under the control of a Director of Harijan Welfare. This Department was to advise the Government on all matters relating to the uplift of the Harijans. Then responsibility of implementing the Welfare Schemes was vested with the District Collectors. When in 1950 the Indian Constitution was brought into effect, the Harijans were conferred with greater facilities. Articles 330 and 332 read with article 334 reserves seats for the Harijans in the State and the Union Legislatures for a period of ten years and this period was extended subsequently. Special concessions were given to them in the appointments to the public offices. The Constitution also prohibited the practice of untouchability in any form.

The Government of Madras have undertaken several measures with a view to eradicating the social and economic backwardness of the Harijans in the State. The following are the important measures: (1) Provision of house-sites to the Harijans, (2) Maintenance of schools, grants of scholarships, stipends, boarding grants and grants to private educational institutions for the benefit of the Harijans, (3) Provision of wells and tanks for the supply of drinking

water, (4) Provision of sanitary amenities, pathways, street lights, burning and burial grounds, (5) Grants to private bodies engaged in social and economic uplift of the eligible communities, (6) Assignment of lease of land for cultivation, (7) Grant of subsidy for purchase of bulls and for sinking wells for agricultural purposes and (8) grant of subsidy for housing and starting of cottage industries. The proper implementation of these measures is carried out by the Department of Harijan Welfare. The Ramanathapuram District is under the control of a District Welfare Officer, Ramanathapuram at Madurai. The Welfare Schemes at the district level are carried out by the District Welfare Officer.

As it has been realised that educational advancement alone can redeem the Harijans from their ignorance, the Government have given top priority for the education of the Harijans. The Harijan students are admitted into schools already in existence in the locality and new schools are also opened exclusively for them where there is no school. The enactment of the Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act of 1947 conferred on the Harijan children equal rights with other children to get themselves admitted into all educational institutions. In 1951 there were only 3 Harijan schools in the Ramanathapuram District, two at Srivilliputtur and the other at Sattur with a total strength of 162 pupils.

From 1961 to 1964 the number of Harijan schools increased to 16 with a total strength of 3272 students. The number of Teachers in these schools has also been correspondingly increased from 6 in 1951 to 24 Secondary Grade Teachers and 47 Higher Grade Teachers in 1964. Three craft-teachers were also employed in the schools at Karisalkulampatti, Sundararajapuram and Mallal one for each school.

The Government have also offered a number of scholarships and boarding grants to the Harijan students to continue their studies at the high school and college levels. The scholarships are also extended to them for pursuing professional courses like Medical, Engineering, Law etc.. The Harijan students are also given residential and non-residential scholarships, boarding grants, grants for purchasing books etc. The following table gives the number of scholarships granted to the Harijan students in the Ramanathapuram District and the amount spent on them by the Government in 1958-59.

| <i>Serial number and nature of scholarships.</i>  | <i>Number of scholarships.</i> | <i>Amount in Rs.</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1)   | (2)                            | (3)                  |
|   |                                | RS.                  |
| 1. Non-residential scholarships for ordinary general education in elementary and secondary schools. | 1,388                          | 20,080               |
| 2. Residential scholarships in the high schools ..  | 125                            | 22,919               |
| 3. Non-recurring grants for the purchase of books, etc.   | 166                            | 573                  |
| 4. Non-residential scholarships in the high schools.  | 295                            | 14,204               |
| 5. Residential scholarships in colleges .. ..   | 276                            | 1,28,274             |
| 6. Non-residential scholarships in colleges .. ..   | 145                            | 41,422               |

In 1960-61 about 4,627 Harijan students were given scholarships worth Rs. 1,51,574. The number of scholarships granted to them in 1960-61 in the professional courses was as given below :—

| <i>Courses.</i>           |  |  |  |  | <i>Number of students who received scholarships.</i> | <i>Amount.</i> |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| (1)                       |  |  |  |  | (2)  | (3)            |
| RE.                       |  |  |  |  |  |                |
| Art and Science .. .. .   |  |  |  |  | 604  | 2,51,107       |
| Engineering .. .. .       |  |  |  |  | 95   | 59,333         |
| Physical Training .. .. . |  |  |  |  | 38   | 13,373         |

Thus a variety of scholarships from the elementary to the collegiate stages, professional, industrial and vocational are being granted to the Harijans. In 1960-61 they were granted about 10,200 scholarships in the whole of the Madras State which involved an expenditure of Rs. 27.4 lakhs<sup>1</sup>.

The Harijan students are also provided with special hostel facilities. They are also given boarding grants. There are 300 hostels in the State out of which 172 are run by the Government and 99 subsidised while the other 29 are special hostels<sup>2</sup>. In 1953-54 there were two Harijan hostels in the Ramanathapuram District with a total strength of 390 students. The location of the Government Harijan hostels in the District and their individual strength are given below :—

#### BOYS' HOSTEL.

| <i>Location.</i>                | <i>Strength.</i> | <i>Location.</i>                                    | <i>Strength.</i> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Srivilliputtur .. .. .       | 225              | 25. Nathampatti .. .. .                             | 50               |
| 2. Tiruppuvanam .. .. .         | 75               | 26. Mangalam .. .. .                                | 30               |
| 3. Nenmoni .. .. .              | 60               | 27. Paganeri .. .. .                                | 35               |
| 4. Paramagudi .. .. .           | 150              | 28. Kalaiyarkoil .. .. .                            | 30               |
| 5. Nattarasankottai .. .. .     | 60               | 29. Paralachi .. .. .                               | 30               |
| 6. Sundarapandiam .. .. .       | 50               | 30. Nalli .. .. .                                   | 20               |
| 7. Mudukulattur .. .. .         | 109              | 31. Kadakkaiyulasai .. .. .                         | 25               |
| 8. Amathur .. .. .              | 75               | 32. Itajapalayam .. .. .                            | 80               |
| 9. Kallal .. .. .               | 70               | 33. Aruppukkottai .. .. .                           | 87               |
| 10. P. Ramachandrapuram .. .. . | 65               | 34. Thailapuram .. .. .                             | 25               |
| 11. Sivakasi .. .. .            | 25               | 35. R. S. Mangalam .. .. .                          | 50               |
| 12. Sattur .. .. .              | 175              | 36. M. Reddiapatti .. .. .                          | 30               |
| 13. Devakottai .. .. .          | 150              | 37. Meesaloor .. .. .                               | 25               |
| 14. Johilpatti .. .. .          | 100              | 38. Government Marava Boarding House, Mudukulattur. | 59               |
| 15. Mallanguinar .. .. .        | 75               | 39. Government Marava Boarding House, Kamuthi.      | 120              |
| 16. Thayagudi .. .. .           | 60               | 40. Government Marava Boarding House, Ponnandandal. | 50               |
| 17. Thondi .. .. .              | 45               | 41. Government Korava Hostel, Aruppukkottai         | 100              |
| 18. Keelakkarai .. .. .         | 40               |   |                  |
| 19. Pavali .. .. .              | 25               |   |                  |
| 20. Sinnakampatti .. .. .       | 40               |   |                  |
| 21. Sankaralingapuram .. .. .   | 40               |   |                  |
| 22. Sivagunga .. .. .           | 120              |   |                  |
| 23. Watrap .. .. .              | 75               |   |                  |
| 24. Boovanathapuram .. .. .     | 35               |   |                  |

1. Third Five-Year Plan, Madras State, 1961.

2. Third Five-Year Plan, Madras State, 1961, Page 165

## GIRLS' HOSTEL.

| <i>Location.</i>       | <i>Strength.</i> | <i>Location.</i>         | <i>Strength.</i> |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 42. Karaikkudi .. ..   | 100              | 48. Devakottai .. ..     | 80               |
| 43. Sivakasi .. ..     | 40               | 49. Sivaganga .. ..      | 50               |
| 44. Virudhunagar .. .. | 150              | 50. Srivilliputtur .. .. | 75               |
| 45. Paramagudi .. ..   | 50               | 51. Government Korava    | 50               |
| 46. Ramanathapuram ..  | 40               | Girls' Hostel, Arup-     |                  |
| 47. Sattur .. ..       | 100              | pukkottai.               |                  |

The Government also grant financial aid to private institutions engaged in running hostels for the Harijan children. In 1958-59 about 749 boarding grants involving an amount of Rs. 1,12,350 were given in the District for the Harijan students in the private hostels. The following are the private hostels in the District run (in 1964) with Government aid :

| <i>Serial number, name<br/>of the hostel and<br/>location.</i> | <i>Number of pupils.</i> |  | <i>Amount spent.</i> |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
|  | <i>Harijans.</i>         | <i>Other<br/>Backward<br/>Classes.</i> | <i>Harijans.</i>     | <i>Other<br/>Backward<br/>classes.</i> |
| (1)  | (2)                      | (3)                                    | (4)                  | (5)                                    |
| 1. C.S.I. Hostel, Aruppukkottai.                               | 12                       | 10                                     | 1,920                | 1,600                                  |
| 2. Kasturibai Girls' Hostel, Rajapalayam.                      | 54                       | 41                                     | 8,640                | 6,560                                  |
| 3. Gandhiji Hostel, Rajapalayam.                               | 55                       | 25                                     | 8,800                | 4,000                                  |
| 4. Kamaraj Hostel, Virudhunagar.                               | 62                       | 27                                     | 9,920                | 4,320                                  |
| 5. Arulneri Rajaji Hostel, Tiruppattur.                        | 67                       | 30                                     | 10,720               | 4,800                                  |
| 6. Thakkar Baba Hostel, Manamadurai.                           | 32                       | 21                                     | 4,880                | 3,300                                  |
| 7. Rajaji Hostel, Kamuthi ..                                   | 48                       | 29                                     | 7,680                | 4,640                                  |
| 8. Vivekananda Hostel, Ramanathapuram.                         | 65                       | 31                                     | 10,400               | 4,960                                  |
| 9. Gandhi Memorial Hostel, Aruppukkottai.                      | 48                       | 31                                     | 7,680                | 4,960                                  |
| Total ..   | 443                      | 245                                    | 70,640               | 39,140                                 |

Students other than Harijans are also given admission in these hostels with a view to remove untouchability.

Harijan students studying in the Harijan welfare schools are given mid-day meals free of cost. The supply of mid-day meals has resulted in the increased attendance of the students in the schools. About Rs. 2,59,000 has been spent in Ramanathapuram District for this purpose in 1962-63. During the same period the Harijan students have been awarded 6,620 pre-matric scholarships and 45 post matric scholarships.

*Housing and Public Health:*—Next to education, priority is given to the granting of house-sites and loans for building houses to the Harijans. The Poramboke lands are distributed to the Harijans. Sometimes the private lands are also given to them after acquiring those lands by the Government. All the Harijans except those who have the resources to pay, are given house-site, free of cost. Each family is assigned an extent of three cents in wet areas and five cents in dry areas. Besides, lands for the construction of common streets, paths, lanes, etc., are also provided. From 1951 to 1964 about 6,239 house-sites have been assigned to the Harijans. In 1960-61 alone about 1,618 sites were given to them<sup>1</sup>.

The Government also sanctioned a subsidy of Rs. 750 and a loan of Rs. 250 to the Harijans as well as the denotified tribes for building houses. So far 2,311 houses for Harijans have been built up in the District. In 1964-65 a sum of Rs. 5,202.37 has been spent towards this purpose.

*Economic Uplift:*—With a view to uplift the Harijans economically, the Government have undertaken certain special measures like assignment of cultivable lands, encouragement of handicrafts and cottage industries and organisation of co-operative societies. Fertile wet lands which otherwise could not be assigned free, are also assigned to the Harijans at a reasonable price fixed by the Collector. The amount is also collected in easy instalments. In 1962, 3.49 acres of wet land have been assigned to them. Besides, they are also given money grants for purchasing seeds, agricultural implements, etc. Plough cattle are also distributed to the Harijans free of cost. Till 1964 about 2,234 plough animals have been distributed to them. They are also given subsidy for sinking irrigation wells. This subsidy does not exceed Rs. 1,500 per well.

In the scheme of economic uplift of the Harijans, they are also given facilities to start cottage industries like basket making, poultry keeping, bee-keeping, mat-weaving, etc. Co-operative societies have been organised in the district to assist them by offering credit facilities, by supplying raw materials and by selling the finished goods.

*Other measures of Harijan uplift:*—Preferential treatment and concessions are shown to Harijans in their admission to educational institutions and recruitment to public services. A number of public posts are reserved for them at all levels. The Indian Constitution originally granted these concessions for ten years and the period has now been subsequently extended. The Government have also sanctioned legal assistance to the needy Harijans.

*Eradication of untouchability:*—The passage of the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act XI of 1947 and the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act V of 1947 in the State

has conferred on the Harijans equal rights of access with other citizens to all places of public resort such as theatres, hotels, hostels, public wells, etc., and the Hindu temples. Article 17 of the Indian Constitution has prohibited the practice of untouchability in any form. The practice of untouchability has been declared an offence by passing the Untouchability (Offences) Act of 1955. The Madras Government have also taken efforts to mobilize healthy public opinion in favour of Harijan uplift. For this purpose, Harijan Day is celebrated in the District on the 28th February and 30th day of other months. On these days health campaigns and meetings are conducted in Harijan colonies all over the District. "Harijan week" is observed every year in the month of January on a State wide basis. During this week Harijan welfare propaganda is carried on throughout the State. These activities of the State have resulted in a considerable advancement of the Harijan community in the District and in creating a healthy attitude among the general public towards the Harijans.

*Welfare of Ex-criminal Tribes:*—The repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act of 1948 led the State to undertake special steps for the rehabilitation of the ex-criminal tribes.

Steps have been taken to spread education among these tribes by opening schools and adult education centres. There are (in 1964) seven schools for the education of the children of the members of these tribes; six of them are elementary schools and one a higher elementary school. Social workers are paying attention to the education of the older members of the tribes. Besides, there are two Government aided boarding homes in the District, which are exclusively for the children of these tribes. They are located at Mudukulattur and Kamudi. The children in the schools are supplied with mid-day meals, books and clothings free of cost. They are also given educational concession and scholarships. In 1964-65, 5,478 pre-matric and 668 post-matric scholarships were granted to them. There are 3 community centres at Pattam (Sivaganga Taluk), Karumal (Mudukulattur Taluk) Sundarakudumbanpatti (Sattur Taluk) with one male social worker, one female social worker and one female attendant for each centre. These centres are looking after pre-age school-going children providing them with play materials and free meals. These tribes are also given financial assistance for building new houses and for the development of agriculture and cottage industries. They are also given subsidy for the purchase of seeds and agricultural implements.

*The Welfare of Backward Classes:*—The welfare of Backward Classes was looked after by the Commissioner of Labour in 1948-49 in which year only the scheme of sanction of scholarships to Backward Classes was started. Then the work was entrusted to the Director of Harijan Welfare from 1949-50 on wards. With a view to devote more attention to Backward Classes and



Denotified Tribes, a separate Directorate of Backward Classes was carved out of the Harijan Welfare Department on May 2, 1969 with a Senior I.A.S. Officer being its head under the control of the Chief Minister. The portfolio has been entrusted to a Cabinet Minister in August 1969.

The Backward Classes Department is sanctioning pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes. Several Boarding Homes are run by this Department for the welfare of Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes throughout the State. Boarding grants are sanctioned to Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes who are staying in the private recognised hostels. For the economic uplift of barbers and dobbies the Government are giving tools required for their trade free of cost. Schools are maintained by the Department for the benefit of Denotified Tribes and the students are supplied with free books and slates and clothing. Mid-day-meals are also supplied in these schools.

#### WOMEN'S WELFARE.

The problem of raising the status of women in the society has been realised as an important duty of a Government in a Welfare State. The Government of Madras have taken up the problem of improving the welfare of women in the State as a problem of humanitarian reforms. For this purpose, a separate department for women's welfare was started in 1947, which was first of its kind in whole of India. Realising that "without the advancement of women, there will be no progress in our National Life" (*Mahatma Gandhi*), the Women's Welfare Department has undertaken a systematic scheme of women's welfare throughout the State.

The women of India, according to tradition, had an honourable place in society. A reading of the great epics of India viz., *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, and Tamil literature like *Silapadhikaram* etc., gives us an impression of the high degree of honour and responsibility given to women and of their courage and freedom. It is not exaggeration to say that the women of India attained this honourable place by service and by sacrifice, by personal immolation rather than by assertion of their rights. The Indian culture has enthroned the women in a position of responsibility where she practices virtues such as chastity, hospitality, rearing of a happy family, fasts and festivities, etc. The very house-hold revolved around her selfless spirit.

The impact of the Muslim invasion and Muslim culture from the 10th century A.D. gave a wrong twist to the position of women in the country. The Muslim invaders steeped in the traditions of purdha, polygamy, suppression of women, etc., spread their culture in India in the course of their conquering carrier. With the arrival of the Muslims the Indian society very often swerved from its way of glory and sometimes considered women as mere chattels. The

miserable situation was further aggravated by the economic depredation that was going on in India from the middle of the 17th century. During all the period of Muslim invasion and the subsequent era of insecurity and declining prosperity of the country, old values changed, institutions which were the custodians of the good things in Indian culture began to decline and corrupt themselves. In this changed situation the temples, educational institutions, village panchayats, joint family etc., became partly corrupt and paralysed that their ability to resuscitate Indian culture was on the wane.

The alien administrators of the country were not in an advantageous position to take active steps to arrest the evil. Occasionally when situations were unbearable and called for intervention, they interfered with a will. For instance laws have been passed for the abolition of *Sati* provision of widow re-marriage, abolition of child marriage, etc. But the real beginning for the measures for the uplift of women have been conceived after the attainment of independence. First and foremost, the Indian Constitution abolished the general handicaps for women by providing universal adult franchise, a right which was realised after great deal of fight and suffering in many other countries. After ensuring for women their political rights as in the case of men, the country has begun to tackle the problem of the uplift of women. This problem assumed added importance as a result of the following considerations : (1) Women form almost half of the electorate of the country, (2) The measures for uplift of women will enable them to increase their earning capacity and in turn the national income, (3) The improvement of the position of women socially, economically and educationally, by which the future generation are likely to gain in a manifold way, for the benefits obtained by women are passed on to their children.

In recent years, the social history of India has recorded many welcome movements for awakening an emancipation of women. Till the beginning of the 19th century women were subjected to various hardships based on tradition, custom, and superstition. They laboured under many social disabilities like polygamy, child marriage, enforced widowhood, *sati* (burning of widows), etc. About the middle of the 19th century a powerful reformist movement swept the whole country. This movement was led by great social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ranade and Dayananda Sarasvathi. Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahma Samaj and championed the cause of women. As a staunch advocate of emancipation of women he pleaded for humane and equitable treatment of women. He also stressed the importance of women's education as a first step towards their uplift. He also opposed polygamy and *sati*. The lead given by Rajaram Mohan Roy was followed by several social reformers like Swami Vivekananda, Annie Besant, Sister Nivedita and others who took a leading part in the struggle for social and educational advancement of the down-trodden and the less privileged section of the society. In Madras

the ideals of Brahma Samaj attracted many eminent persons like Viresalingam Panthulu, a leading social reformer. Viresalingam Panthulu advocated, throughout his life, the widow re-marriage and was aptly known as the father of Widow Re-marriage.

In 1905 the foundation of the Servants of India Society were laid by Gopala Krishna Gokhale. The Society emphasised the necessity for the emancipation of women in the country. In 1917 the Indian National Congress took a forward step in the movement for the emancipation of women by electing Annie Besant as its first women President. In the same year Annie Besant and Margaret Cousins founded the Indian Women's Association in Madras. Due to the activities of this Association, it was realised for the first time that freedom for women was an integral part of freedom for the nation. The question of women's franchise was also raised in the same year, and a deputation of women under the leadership of Sarojini Naidu met Mr. Montagu, the British Secretary of State for India. The delegation presented a memorandum urging him to confer on women the right to vote and to give them better educational and health facilities. This was followed by public meetings and conference throughout the country. In 1919 another women deputation met the Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill. As a result of these efforts women were enfranchised by 1929. The emergence of Mahatma Gandhi on the political scene of India as the unquestioned leader of the nation resulted in a series of agitations against the British. This struggle for freedom from the foreign yoke gave women ample opportunity to assert their equality with men. Large number of women all over India came to the forefront and fought for independence.

During this period, Madras took the lead. Annie Besant and her colleagues Rukmani Lakshmipati, Mrs. Sadasiva Iyer and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi of the Theosophical Society of India, became the leading personalities around whom the movement for the advancement of women gained great momentum. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi later founded the Avvai Home in Madras for the benefit of the destitute and rescued women, and the Madras Cancer Institute. By this time the cause of women was taken up by the eminent Tamil poet Subramania Bharathi, who was a native of the Tirunelveli District. Subramania Bharathi evinced great interest in the advancement of women and sang the soul stirring songs entitled “புதுமைப் பெண்” (Modern woman) which opened the eyes of the people of Tamilnad to the necessity of conferring on women the honoured place they deserved in society. In 1929 though franchise for women was an accomplished fact, there was none in the Madras Legislative Council to represent and to focus the grievances of women. Thereupon, the Women's Indian Association in Madras brought great pressure on the Government of Madras to nominate a woman member in the Council to represent

the women of the State. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi was given the unique privilege of being nominated as the first Indian woman to be represented in a legislature. She was then elected as the Vice-President of the Council. Besides being the first lady member of a legislature, she was also the first woman to be graduated in medicine from the Madras University.

From 1929 onwards the All-India Women's Conference carried on the struggle for the emancipation of women. Women from all parts of the country were represented in the conference. It demanded equal rights for women in every walk of life. The principle of the conference was supported by the branches of the Home Rule League all over the State.

Important political events that took place such as the Civil Disobedience Movement, Salt Satyagraha etc. gave opportunity to women to participate in them. During the Civil Disobedience Movement, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi resigned her membership of the Madras Legislative Council. Kamalabai Lakshman Rao of Madras also resigned her office of Honorary Magistrate. Women in large numbers courted imprisonment and Rukmani Lakshmi was the first woman to be arrested in the Madras State. The participation of women in the political movements and their suffering awakened a sense of responsibility in the minds of women and developed their political consciousness.

R. Krishnammal an educated lady and wife of Ramachandran, an eminent lawyer and former District Board President had been rendering great services to the public, as a member of the District Board of Ramanathapuram and that of the Taluk Board of Sivaganga from the year 1932. At the Agambadia Ladies Conference, in the year 1932, her Presidential Address was a highly spirited one. She was continuing, with credit, the lofty work of Adi-Dravida uplift started by her husband. Her chief service to her constituency, i.e. Sivaganga, as a Member of the Ramanathapuram District Board was the establishment of a dispensary for women and children. She was the founder-President and the Secretary of the Ladies Club of Sivaganga and took a very prominent part in the well being of the Club. She was a Member of the Education Council of Ramanathapuram. She was also Honorary Magistrate in Sivaganga Town.

Ramakshmi Ammal, the wife of Karpurasundara Pandian, a prominent Vakil of Sivaganga was an enlightened lady of many and good parts. She was well versed in Tamil and took a keen interest in all public affairs. She was the President of the Rajarajeswari Ladies Club, an institution for the advancement of women, in Sivaganga. She was a prominent Member of the Red Cross Society and took a loving interest in its work<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Madhva Rau, N., *Encyclopaedia of South India and Ceylon*, 1937-38, p. 72-73.

The freedom movement under Gandhiji attracted many learned women from all over the Madras State to take part in it. During this period women were given equal status and they zealously fought for the liberation of the country from the foreign yoke. The advent of independence fulfilled the aspirations of women. In 1950, when the Indian Constitution was drawn up, some safeguards were incorporated in it under Fundamental Rights to protect the interests of women. It lays down that "there shall not be any discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth" and that there shall be equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment for appointment to any office under the State and that no citizen shall on grounds only of religion, s x, etc., be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.

Purely political agitation alone did not bring about the emancipation of women. The political agitation supplemented by long and patient social work marked a profound change in the attitude of women, both in rural and urban areas and made them receptive to modern ideas. During the Second World War (1939—1946) a band of voluntary women workers started the Air-Raid Precaution Corps for Women in 1941, with a view to educate the ignorant and illiterate women living in the slum about the air-raid safety measures. When the World War came to an end, the Government of Madras felt that the experience of these women workers should be utilised for constructive social service work among women in order to promote the status of women in society. The Corps was reconstituted and renamed as "Indian Women's Civic Corps" which continued to render useful service among women. In 1947 the Government of Madras instituted a separate department for women's welfare replacing the Indian Women's Civic Corps. As early as 1937 Lakshmi Sankara Aiyar, the first woman M.L.A. from Tirunelveli District took up women's cause. In the beginning, the Department of Women's Welfare had a women's Welfare Officer at its top and a number of Assistant Women's Welfare Officers and Women's Welfare Organisers in the districts. In 1953, when the Andhra State was formed as a separate State, the office of Women's Welfare Officer was abolished and the department was placed under the charge of the Director of Rural Welfare. The Director was assisted by a woman Deputy Director of Rural Welfare. In August 1955, the Department was given an independent status under the control of the Director of Women's Welfare. The Director is assisted by the District Women's Welfare Officers in the districts and by the Mukya sevikas and Gramasevikas in the panchayat unions. In 1961, the activities of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the activities of the Community Development Department regarding the welfare of women were integrated in order to facilitate better and vigorous implementation of the programme of women's welfare. But the State Social Welfare Board consisting of 21 members including 12 district

representatives is vested with the responsibility of determining the policy to be followed and of preparing schemes to promote the welfare of women in the State. The Director of Women's Welfare Department acts as secretary of the Board. The immediate control and supervision of the staff of the Department as well as of the Board and the Community Development Department is vested with the Director of Women's Welfare Department. The Director is also responsible for all the executive work regarding the implementation of the welfare schemes. In this, the Director is guided by the Board which has its committees functioning in every district and also in the Development Blocks<sup>1</sup>. The activities of the Department aim at the promotion of social, economic and cultural status of women. They seek mainly to improve the conditions of literacy, health, home life, economic activities, recreation and citizenship training among women and children. With this view, instructions on health, hygiene, maternity and child welfare are imparted to women. They are also given training in some cottage industries and other home crafts so that they can improve their economic condition.

Each block is allotted about Rs. 24,500 (1/3 per capita) for women and children's programme during the III Plan period and the convenors are running the Mathar Sangams started in blocks.

In the Ramanathapuram District there are (in 1964) four branches of the Women's Welfare Department located at Srivilliputtur, Chokkanathapuram, Andichoorani and Tiruvadanai. These branches are staffed by Women's Welfare Organisers who are under the control of the District Women's Welfare Officer. These branches offer facilities like education, employment opportunities, medical aid, etc. They also organise community centres for the purpose of educating women through demonstration, discussions, etc. These activities are planned in such a way that quick and all-round improvements in the outlook of women and a better standard of living may be achieved.

In 1964-65 about 5,647 families in the Ramanathapuram District received such assistance from the Department.

Community service centres have been organised by the Department at important places like Tiruvadanai, Andichoorani, Srivilliputtur and Chokkanathapuram in the District. The centres bring women into closer contact with each other. In these centres women gather to learn through talks and discussions. The programmes in the centres are usually arranged in the afternoons

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<sup>1</sup> Third Five-Year Plan, Madras Government (1961), P. 170.

to enable women to participate in them. The participants in these programmes learn new things connected with the problems of domestic interest. Social education, health and development of cottage industries are the three-fold scheme adopted by these centres. Talks on nutrition, child care, maternity, home remedies, home economy and first aid are arranged in these centres. The chief aims of these activities of the centres are to educate women in running their homes in the best possible manner and to make them utilise their leisure time profitably. Demonstration in cooking are also conducted in these centres with a view to impress women on the importance of balancing their diet. Women are also trained in cottage industries. For this purpose the Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 300 for every district to buy raw materials. This amount is replenished as and when sales of the furnished products are effected. After training, women are given further encouragement to continue these industries in their homes, for which purpose they are offered marketing facilities for the sale of the finished goods. The centres also meet for cultural activities. The following table shows the number of women who attended these centres during the period 1959-60 to 1963-64 :—

| <i>Year.</i> |    | <i>During Centre Timings.</i> | <i>During Non-Centre Timings.</i> |
|--------------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1)          |    | (2)                           | (3)                               |
| 1959-60      | .. | 696                           | 1,383                             |
| 1960-61      | .. | 1,522                         | 2,223                             |
| 1961-62      | .. | 3,453                         | 2,034                             |
| 1962-63      | .. | 3,290                         | 674                               |
| 1963-64      | .. | 1,193                         | 660                               |

Another important activity of the community welfare centres is to conduct pre-basic classes for the children between the ages of three and seven. The children are encouraged to move freely among themselves without any distinction of caste or creed. Greatest importance is attached to the personal cleanliness of the children. Special care is taken in shaping their character and in developing healthy and good habits among the pupils. Free play, expression work, story telling, organised games, music, etc., are some of the items of entertainment conducted every week. The children are also given toys and other playing materials with a view to induce them to attend the classes regularly. About 758 children attended the pre-basic classes in 1959-60, 1,648 in 1960-61, 6,923 in 1961-62, 7,352 in 1962-63 and 2,912 in

1963—64. Besides, literary classes are also conducted for women. In 1959—60 about 368 women attended these classes, 374 in 1960—61, 350 in 1961—62, 826 in 1962—63 and 280 in 1963—64.

Necessary steps have also been taken by the Women's welfare Department to rehabilitate the helpless women like the deserted wives, destitute women, widows and orphans. For this purpose Service Homes are run by the Department. In these homes, the helpless women are taken in and are given training in some cottage industry. A model Service Home financed by the Government of Tamil Nadu is run at Tambaram near Madras. This home has provision for admission of 200 women and 100 children from all over the State. The inmates can stay in the home for three years, during which period they are imparted general education upto elementary school level. They are also given training in crafts like spinning, cloth-weaving, tailoring, embroidery, mat weaving, etc. They are also given training in music and are allowed to sit for the Government Examinations in Music. After their passing the VIII Standard, they are helped to get admission into midwifery or teacher's training courses. Some are helped to continue their studies up to S.S.L.C. After their discharge from the home, the Department takes every necessary step to rehabilitate them suitably. The inmates of the home are given a stipend of Rs. 30 per month in the case of women and Rs. 27 per month in the case of children.

The financial difficulties have prevented the Government from starting more Service Homes in the State. But all encouragements are extended to the private organisations to run such homes in the districts. There are such homes two in the district of Madurai and one each in the districts of Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Salem.

The Women's Welfare Department also runs work centres in the State with the object of training women in simple cottage industries and to enable them to supplement their meagre family incomes. There are (in 1964) three work centres located at Mudukulattur, Tiruppullani and Manisapuram. In each of these centres there are 15 inmates who are given training in tailoring and in palm leaf work. Rs. 20 per mensem is given as stipends to the trainees in Mudukulattur and in Tiruppullani work centres. In the work centre at Manisapuram which was started under the Third Five-Year Plan training is given in *olai* basket making to denotified tribes women. They are paid 0.75 per head per day as wages.



The Women's Welfare Department runs a number of *Madhar Sangams* with a view to enlist the co-operation of women in the activities, of the Department. There are (in 1964) eight *Madhar Sangams* in the Ramanathapuram District located at Mangapuram, Keeramangalam, Kallor, Koilampatti, Ottanam, Mathukanmai, Vallikattai and Nanjappor. Important home crafts are taught in these *Sangams* to the members. Embroidery, cutting and tailoring, knitting, crochet, spinning, cord bag and towel bag making, lace work and muffler making, etc., are some of the crafts taught in the *Sangams*.

The following table shows the number of members, finished articles and wages disbursed to members from the proceeds :—

| Year.   |    |    | Number<br>of Members. | Value of<br>finished<br>product. | Wages<br>disbursed. |
|---------|----|----|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| (1)     |    |    | (2)                   | (3)                              | (4)                 |
|         |    |    |                       | RS. P.                           | RS. P.              |
| 1959-60 | .. | .. | 364                   | 632-81                           | 9-321               |
| 1960-61 | .. | .. | 386                   | 689-48                           | 269-90              |
| 1961-62 | .. | .. | 416                   | 740-95                           | 256-80              |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | 368                   | 480-71                           | 188-24              |
| 1963-64 | .. | .. | 437                   | 413-34                           | 153-44              |

Subsidiary industries like tailoring, poultry keeping, *appalam* making and palm leaf mat making are also provided in the *Sangams*. The training of women in various cottage industries have enabled women to earn additional income during their leisure time. *Madhar Sangams* also conduct pre-basic classes to children and literary classes for adults.

The following table shows the number of children who attended the pre-basic classes :—

| Year.   |    |    |    | Number of<br>children<br>who attended<br>classes. |
|---------|----|----|----|---|
| 1959-60 | .. | .. | .. | 835   |
| 1960-61 | .. | .. | .. | 1,891   |
| 1961-62 | .. | .. | .. | 1,809   |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | .. | 1,620   |
| 1963-64 | .. | .. | .. | 980   |

The following table shows the number of women who attended pre-basic classes :—

| Year.   |    |    |    | Number of women<br>who attended classes. |
|---------|----|----|----|--|
| 1959-60 | .. | .. | .. | 300                                      |
| 1960-61 | .. | .. | .. | 339                                      |
| 1961-62 | .. | .. | .. | 233                                      |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | .. | 194                                      |
| 1963-64 | .. | .. | .. | 137                                      |

Under the III Five-Year Plan two blocks, (1) Singampuneri and (2) Virudhunagar have been selected for intensified pre-school programme. A pre-school has been started in each one of its panchayats which are managed by *Balasevikas* trained by the *Mukhyasevikas*. The average attendance in these pre-schools ranges from 25 to 40. Midday-meals are supplied to children in some of the panchayats. Children between the ages  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 are admitted in these pre-schools and are taught stories and rhymes apart from training in good habits and cleanliness.

During 1963-64 apart from other Governmental organisation, the following voluntary organisations (which received grants from State Social Welfare Board) were attending to work relating to social welfare in the District.

1. Jothigurukulam Manalur Silaiman, Ramanathapuram District.
2. Gandhi Orphanage, Magalir Illam, Amaravathipudur, Ramanathapuram District.
3. Balar Pathukappu Viduthi Seva Samajam Boys Home, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram District.
4. Annai Saradamani Madhar Sangam, Sivakasi, Ramanathapuram District.
5. Srimathi Indira Gandhi Industrial Home, Devakottai, Ramanathapuram District.
6. C.S.I. Creche and Kindergarten School, Rajapalayam, Ramanathapuram District.
7. Devakottai Madhar Sangam, A.I.W.C. Branch, Ramanathapuram District.
8. Mercy Home Kripa Ashram, Aruppukkottai, Ramanathapuram District.
9. Thiruvika Vadavoorar Punniya Viduthi (Orphanage) Kundrakkudi, Ramanathapuram District.

The following *Madhar Sangams* are also functioning in the District. Jothi Bhakthi Pengal Kazhagam, Andikuran Street, Virudhunagar, Annai Saradamani Madhar Sangam, Sivakasi, Ramanathapuram District.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

Charitable endowments and public trusts have played a significant role in promoting the social and economic welfare of the people. These public trusts and endowments have organised several educational institutions and scholarships to assist the deserving people to pursue their education. The Hindu temples and mutts have from very early times contributed much to promote the intellectual calibre and economic status of the people. The control and administration of these trusts had differed from time to time. In early days under the Pandya and Chola rulers, the temples and their properties were managed by the village assemblies through special committees called *Variyam*. These *Variyams* looked into the accounts of these trusts. They also organised mutts out of the temple funds and established in them Vedic schools and charitable institutions with a view to educate and feed the poor. In course of time, the importance of the village assemblies declined and the mode of administration of these institutions also changed.

When the British came to power in the District, measures were undertaken for the proper upkeep and maintenance of the temples and other religious institutions and charitable endowments. The temples in the District possessed enormous wealth accumulated through donations from the public. The temples acted as landlords and leased lands to tenants on favourable tenures. In 1817 the Government of Madras passed a regulation which brought all the religious institutions under the general supervision of the Board of Revenue and the respective Collectors of the districts. The District Collector was vested with the control of all properties of the religious institutions. In 1841 the management of these institutions was handed over to private trustees and managers. By 1863 these institutions accumulated more and more wealth resulting in the mismanagement and misappropriation of the properties by the private trustees. The Government of Madras passed an Amending Act (Madras Act XX of 1863) in order to prevent and to eradicate these abuses. Under the provisions of the Amending Act the religious institutions were brought under the control of the local committees. The management of the religious institutions by the local committees continued till 1925 but did not prove to be satisfactory. In 1925 the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act (Act I of 1925) was passed. This Act placed all the religious institutions under the control and supervision of the Religious Endowments Board which consisted of a President and certain Commissioners. But within a short time this Board was found to be incapable of discharging its duties efficiently. There were complaints of mismanagement and inefficient supervision. As a result, many amendments were made to the Act with a view to improve the situation. But the position did not improve. The first Congress ministry under Thiru C. Rajagopalachari resolved to take over the direct administration of these religious institutions.

Some amendments were made by Act V of 1944 and Act X of 1946. In 1951 an important step was taken by the National Government by passing the Madras Act XIX of 1951. By this Act all the religious institutions in the State were brought under the direct control and administration of the Government. Moreover, it also regularised the law concerning the Hindu religious and charitable institutions and endowments in the State and set up many controlling authorities, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioners and the Area Committees. The Commissioner was vested with the authority to exercise general superintendence and control over the administration of all religious endowments. The Area Committees were vested with supervisory powers over the temples and specific endowments attached to them with an annual income of less than Rs. 20,000. The trustees of every religious institution were required to maintain regular accounts of all receipts and disbursements. It also enforced them to pay an amount not less than 5 per cent of the income to the Government towards the services rendered by the Government and the officials. The Commissioner was also empowered to use surplus funds of these institutions for charitable purposes and for imparting religious education. The accounts of the institutions whose annual income was not less than Rs. 1,000 was to be audited by the Local Fund Department of the Government.

In 1959 the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act (Act XXII of 1959) was passed and it came into force from January 1960 throughout the State including the Ramanathapuram District, except Kanyakumari District and Shencottah Taluk of Tirunelveli District. There are (in 1964) 545 major religious institutions and 378 minor religious institutions in the Ramanathapuram District. Among the major institutions 471 are temples, 61 specific endowments, 7 matts, and 6 charitable institutions. These institutions are under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

The following are the important activities of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department: (a) verification and appraisal of jewels and valuables belonging to religious institutions; (b) appointing special staff for the purpose of supervising festivals in the temples and of safeguarding the cash offerings in coffers of the religious institutions; (c) looking after the lease of properties like land to the tenant's co-operative farming societies, (d) undertaking special and large scale repairs and renovations to temples; (e) performing *Kumbabishekams* in temples; (f) getting financial aid for conducting *pujas* in the temples (g) creating religious atmosphere in the religious institutions by arranging for the vocal and broadcast of recorded songs from *Tiruppavai*, *Tiruvembavai*, *Tirupalliezhuchi*, etc., during the month of *Margazhi* and *Thevaram* and *Nalayirapirabandam* on festive

occasions and (h) providing facilities for the pilgrims, like accommodation for their stay, water-supply, sanitary facilities, etc., at important pilgrim centres.

The following institutions are (in 1964) getting an annual income of Rs. 20,000 and above in the District.

1. *Sri Naganathaswami* Temple, Nainar Koil, Paramagudi Taluk
2. *Sri Ramanathaswami* Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram Taluk.
3. *Sri Parasakthiamariamman* Temple, Virudhungan, Sattur Taluk.
4. Temples and Kattalais under the management of *Siraganga Devasthanam*, Sivaganga.
5. *Sri Koppudayanayagamman* Temple, Karaikkudi, Tiruppattur Taluk.
6. *Sri Kailasanathaswami* and *Nithyakalyaniammman* Temple, Illayathangudi Tiruppattur Taluk.
7. *Sri Anjukoil Devasthanam*, Kuntakudi, Tirupputtur Taluk.
8. *Sri Nachadaitthavirtharuliswami Devasthanam*, Devadanam, Srivilliputtur Taluk.
9. *Sri Nachiar Devasthanam*, Srivilliputtur Town and Taluk.
10. *Sri R.M. AR. AR. R.M. Arunachalam Chettiar Kattalai*, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai Taluk.
11. *Sri Adhi Rathaeswarar*, Temple, Tiruvadanai Town and Taluk.
12. *Sri Manjathanathaswami* Temple, Tiru-Uttarakosamangai, Ramanathapuram Taluk.
13. *Sri Thirumeninathaswami*, Temple, Tiruchuli, Aruppukkottai Taluk.
14. *Sri Mayuranathaswami* Temple, Rajapalayam, (Pothayanallur), Srivilliputtur Taluk.
15. *Sri Silambani Chidambara Vinayagar* Temple, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai Taluk.
16. *Sri Adhi Jagannathaperumal* Temple, Tiruppullani, Ramanathapuram Taluk.
17. *Sri Mariammman* Temple, Irukkangudi, Sattur Taluk (non-listed).

The following institutions are maintaining public libraries from out of the funds of the institutions: —

1. *Sri Nachiar Devasthanam*, Srivilliputtur Town and Taluk.
2. *Sri Ramanathaswami*, Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram Taluk.
3. *Sri Silambani Chidambara Vinayagar* Temple, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai Taluk.
4. *Sri Vaidyanathaswami*, Temple, Madavarvilagam, Srivilliputtur Taluk.
5. *Sri Koppudayanayagamman* Temple, Karaikkudi, Tirupputtur Taluk.

A brief account of some of the above institutions is given below.—

1. *Sri Naganathaswami* Temple, Nainarkoil, Paramagudi Taluk.

In this temple there is a huge hundi collection. Besides this, the temple gets the highest income of all the temples in the Ramanathapuram Samasthanam. The temple seems to be very ancient and has got a *sthalapuranam*.

2. *Sri Ramanathaswami Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram Taluk.*

It is a famous temple. Pilgrims from all parts of India visit it through out the year. The income of the temple is 4 lakhs. In this temple *Sri Rama* made *Linga Pirathishtai* and worshipped.

3. *Sri Koppudaiyanayagamman Temple, Tiruppattur Taluk.*

This is a very powerful deity, in the midst of the Karaikkudi town. The deity is only *utsavar* deity and the *moolavar* deity is somewhere in the out skirts of the town. The deity is said to be a *Varaprasathi*.

4. *Sri Kailasanathar and Nithyakalyaniammam Temple, Ilayathakudi, Tiruppattur Taluk.*

This is one of the ancient temples in the Ramanathapuram District and it is one of the nine temples of Nagarathar Community. The temple is kept very neat and tidy. It has a fine rest house.

5. *Sri Anjukoil Devasthanam, Kunrakkudi, Tiruppattur Taluk.*

It is comprised of 5 temples with headquarters at Kunrakkudi under the Saiva Adheena Mutt management called Thiruvannamalai mutt. The main temple is known as *Sri Subramaniaswami Temple*. Lord *Subramanya* is presiding over a beautiful small rock hillock.

6. *Sri Nachiar Devasthanam, Srivilliputtur Town and Taluk.*

This is the birth place of Sri Andal who has sung the famous *Thiruppavai* (30) songs. She is one of the 12 *Alvars*. There is a very big temple with a lofty *gopuram* called *Vadapathrasayee* temple.

7. *Sri Adhi Rathneswarar Temple, Tiruvadanai town and Taluk.*

This is one of the *padalpetra stalams* in Pandya territory.

8. *Sri Mangalanathaswami Temple, Tiru-Uttarakosamangai, Ramanathapuram Taluk.*

It is the second biggest temple so far as the income is considered. This is one of the important temple in South India. This temple is associated with Saint Manickavasagar and the *Tiruvagasam*. There are anecdotes that Saint Manickavasagar came to this temple in his previous birth as one of the 999 *munivars*.

9. *Sri Thirumeninathaswami temple, Tiruchuli, Aruppukkottai Taluk.*

This is one of the *padalpetra sthalam* about 8 miles from Aruppukkottai Town. Saint Sundaramurthi Swamigal has sung about this temple. It is also one of the 14 *padalpetra sthalams* in Pandyanad.

*Sri Ramanathaswami Temple*, Rameswaram is running a high school out of its funds.

#### LABOUR WELFARE.

The Labour Department in The State under the Commissioner for Labour looks after the welfare of the labourers in the State. This Department deals with problems like employment of women and children, minimum wages, trade-unions, insanitary living conditions of the labourers and the unhealthy working conditions in the factories, mills, etc. In order to deal with these problems effectively and to ameliorate the conditions of workers employed in factories and to maintain industrial peace the Labour Department administers several labour and factory laws. These laws are also applicable to the Ramanathapuram District. The following are some of the labour laws that are in force in the Ramanathapuram District.

#### THE FACTORIES ACT OF 1948 :--

This Act came into force on April 1st, 1949. It is based on the standards set up by the International Labour Organisation. Both power and non-power factories employing more than 10 and 20 persons respectively are brought under the purview of the Act. The provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 is also made applicable under section 85 (1) of the Act to small factories engaged in certain industries employing less than 10 workers and using power. The Act also provides for licensing of factories in order to control and regulate them. The construction of a new factory or the extension of the existing factories requires the prior approval of the Chief Inspector of Factories. This Act provides for measures to secure the good health, safety and welfare of the workers in the factories. It prescribes standards for light, ventilation and temperature, and prohibits the employment of children below 14 years. It also regulates working hours. It restricts the working hours to 48 hours in a week and to 9 hours in a day. For the workers who do not avail themselves of the weekly holidays on account of the nature of their work, compensatory holidays are to be granted. This Act prohibits continuous work for more than five hours, after five hours of work. This Act also provides for the payment of overtime wages at the rate of twice the ordinary wages including all allowances.

This Act also enforces the grant of leave with wages at the rate of one day for every 20 days of work. It also insists on providing facilities like latrines, good drinking water, first aid, canteens, rest sheds, etc. In the revised set up after the reorganisation of the Factories Wing and revision of jurisdiction among the Factory Inspectorate in this State from 1st February 1964, there is a Superintending Inspector of Factories with his headquarters at Madurai who is enforcing the provisions of the Factories Act and other allied Acts in his division comprising Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts assisted by the three Inspectors of Factories and one Assistant Inspector of Factories in the District. The provisions of the labour Acts are enforced in these factories by the officers of the Labour Department. The Labour Officer in Virudhunagar acts as the Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, while the Inspector of Factories enforces the provision of the Industries Act and the allied laws in the District. The enforcement of the Shops and Establishments Act, Madras Catering Establishment Act, etc., is done by the Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Labour in the District.

Every industrial institution in the District is forced by the Labour Department to provide to its employees medical aid, distribution of free uniforms, washing facilities, first aid appliances, housing accommodation, canteen facilities, rest sheds and creches. Every institution has to provide for free educational facilities to the children of the employees and to pay bonus to its workers.

The management of Coronation Litho Works, Sivakasi and the management of Janakiram Mills, Rajapalayam have constructed houses for their workers in the respective places. In Sivakasi 156 houses have been constructed in 1964 under "the Industrial Housing Scheme Colony" for the residence of the factory workers under a monthly subscription of house rent of Rs. 10 for each house.

#### THE MADRAS SHOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ACT OF 1947:—

This Act regulates the conditions of workshops, commercial firms, theatres, hotels, etc. Under the Act the hours of work for the adults are limited to a maximum of eight hours a day, and 48 hours in a week. Children between the ages of 14 to 18 are not allowed to work for more than seven hours a day and 42 hours in a week. Children below 14 years of age are not to be employed in any of these establishments. This Act provides for all employees a weekly holiday with wages, grants 12 days privilege leave after twelve months of continuous service (such leave can be accumulated for 24 days) and also 12 days of casual leave and 12 days of sick leave with pay. It also ensures security of service by conferring on the employees the right to appear to



the appellate authority in case of dismissal. The verdict of the appellate authority will be final. There were 13,349 establishments covered by the Madras Shops and Establishments Act in the District at the end of 1964. Out of which 3,804 were with employees employing 11,214 workers.

#### MADRAS CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1958 :—

This Act has been introduced to regulate the working conditions of the workers in Catering Establishments in the State. Apart from the facilities of working hours and leave facilities to workers, the establishments who are employing more than 50 workers have to provide uniforms to them. There were (in 1964) 741 establishments employing 2,896 workers covered by the Act in the District. Beside this, there were (in 1964) 716 establishments which does not have any employees. The Act provides for appeal against the orders of the managements dismissing the workers. The Labour Officer of the District is the Appellate Authority for such cases.

#### THE WORKING JOURNALISTS (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT, 1955:—

This Act, has been introduced by the Government of India to regulate the conditions of service of working journalists and other persons employed in newspaper establishments. The wages of the workers to whom the Act applied, are fixed by the Wage Board constituted under the Act. This Act also regulates the service conditions of the workers such as working hours, provides for leave facilities, recovery of money due from employers and payments of gratuity, etc.

There are four newspaper establishments in the Ramanathapuram District. The Inspector of Labour, Madurai, is the Inspector of Newspaper Establishments for enforcing the provisions of the Act in the District.

#### THE MADRAS MATERNITY ACT OF 1934:—

This Act grants maternity benefits to women labourers for a specific period. It also prohibits the employment of women in factories for three weeks before and four weeks after confinement and provides for the payment of maternity benefit to them.

#### THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT OF 1938:—

This Act prohibits the employment of children in risky and unhealthy jobs. Children below 14 years of age are prohibited from employment.

### THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT OF 1948:—

This Act fixes the minimum wages for certain occupation where “sweated labour is most prevalent or where there is big chance of exploitation of labour”. Workers employed in industries specified in the schedule appended to the Act come under the purview of this Act. Minimum wages have so far been fixed for industries like oil mills, rice mills, dhall mills, flour mills, beedi manufacturing concerns and tanneries and leather manufacturing concerns, employment in any woollen carpet making or shawl weaving establishments, employment in any plantation that is to say any estate which is maintained for the purpose of growing cinchona, rubber, tea and coffee, employment under any local authority, employment on the construction or maintenance of roads or in building operations, employment in stone breaking or stone crushing, employment in any mica works, employment in any public motor transport, employment in cotton ginning and pressing, employment in salt pans, employment in coir industry employment in match and fire works, employment in hosiery manufactory, and the employment in brick and tiles manufactory.

### THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT OF 1947 :—

This Act provides for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and prohibits strikes and lock-outs in public utility services without prior notice to the Government. The Conciliation Officers appointed under this Act settle the Industrial disputes. Disputes which are not settled by these officers are referred to Labour Courts or Industrial Tribunals of the Government for adjudication.

Provision is also made for settlement by arbitration. This Act also provides, for payment of retrenchment compensation, lay off ; for maintaining status quo during the pendency of adjudication proceedings, operation of awards, etc. and workers are also empowered to file claim petitions before the Labour Courts and to Government for recovery.

During the year 1964, three hundred and twenty nine industrial disputes out of 373 were settled by the Conciliation Officer, Ramanathapuram District. There were no strikes in the District during the year.

### THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (STANDING ORDERS) ACT, 1946:—

This Act came into force on April 23, 1946. It requires the employer of every industrial establishment in which one hundred or more workers are employed, to submit to the Certifying Officers, for certification, draft standing orders proposed for adoption in his industrial establishment. The draft standing orders contain

provisions relating to the terms of service for the workmen in the establishment, and are so far as possible" in conformity with the model standing orders framed by the State Government} under this Act. The Certifying Officer gives the employer and the trade union of the workers or other representatives of the workers, an opportunity of being heard and then certifies the draft with such modifications as he may consider necessary to render it certifiable under the Act. An appeal is provided against the order of the Certifying Officer.

**THE EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND ACT OF 1952 (INDIA ACT XXX OF 1952) :—**

This Act covers employees in six major industries, viz., cement, cigarettes, electrical and mechanical engineering, iron and steel, paper and textiles. Workers are required to contribute  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of their wages towards the Provident Fund and the Act makes it obligatory on the part of employer also to make an equal contribution.

**THE PLANTATION LABOUR ACT OF 1951 :—**

This Act provides for amenities to workers engaged in plantations. Housing, educational facilities, facilities like drinking water, conservancy, medical, canteen and recreation are to be provided by the management. This Act applies to all tea, coffee, rubber and cinchona plantations of about 25 acres or more employing about 30 persons. It provides for a weekly holiday, annual leave with wages and payment of overtime wages for the workers.

**THE WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT OF 1923 :—**

This Act provides compensation to injured workmen while on duty in case of non-fatal accidents or to their relatives in case of fatal accidents, arising out of and in the course of employment. Scheduled rates linked to wage group of the worker and occupation covered by the Act are provided in the Act.

The Labour Department in the State is controlled by the Commissioner of Labour. At the regional and the district level the Commissioner is assisted by Labour Officers, Inspectors of Factories, Assistant Inspectors of Labour and Assistant Inspectors of Factories.

There is a Labour Officer for the District at Virudhunagar. The Superintending Inspector of Factories, Madurai, assisted by the Inspectors of Factories and Assistant Inspector of Factories and Inspector of Labour, Madurai assisted by Assistant Inspectors of Labour have jurisdiction over the District. The officers of the Department enforce the provisions of the Labour Acts in the District. The Labour Officer acts as the Conciliation

Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act while the Inspector of Factories enforces the Factories Act and the allied acts in the District. The Inspector of Labour and Assistant Inspectors of Labour enforce the provisions of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, Madras Catering Establishments Act, etc

The department prevails upon the Industrial concerns to provide for its workers medical aid, washing facilities, housing accommodation for the staff, canteens, rest-sheds and creches. Industrialists are advised to provide free educational facilities to the children of the staff and to pay bonus to its workers wherever possible. The Government have sanctioned a scheme in January 1958 for the construction of 156 houses at Sivakasi for the benefit of Industrial workers. These houses have been occupied by eligible industrial workers. The allotment of tenements is made by the Labour Officer Virudhunagar who is the Chairman of the Managing Committee of Sivakasi Colony. The maintenance work is done by the Housing Units of the State Housing Board.

In February, 1958, the Government have sanctioned the execution of Virudhunagar Phase I Project for the construction of 116 tenements for the Industrial Workers. This Project has been transferred to the State Housing Board for allotment on rent or hire purchase basis.

In January, 1958, Government had sanctioned the execution of Virudhunagar Phase II, Project which is under the control of the Industries Department. Twenty houses have been constructed and have been allotted to the workers employed in the Industrial Estates. The collection of rent and maintenance is done by the Industries Department.

#### THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME;—

This scheme gives the worker a sense of social security by providing free medical aid of a higher order irrespective of his financial status and at the same time, cash benefit to sustain him or her, during times of sickness, maternity or disability. The Employees' State Insurance Act applies to all factories, other than those defined as "Seasonal", and using power for manufacturing purpose and employing twenty or more persons. The scheme is administered by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, a statutory body, under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. In addition to the contributions, of the employers and employees the State and the Central Governments finance the scheme. The medical benefits which form the back-bone of the scheme cover out-patient and in-patient treatment, pathological examination and X-ray tests, domiciliary visits by doctors, antenatal and postnatal care and ambulance facilities.

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been implemented in the areas of Rajapalayam, Sivakasi and Virudhunagar in the Ramanathapuram District. The benefit provisions of the scheme has been extended to the families of the insured persons also in these areas.

| <i>Areas.</i>   | <i>Date of implementation.</i> | <i>Date of Extension to families.</i> | <i>Number of factories.</i> | <i>Number of employees.</i> | <i>Numbe. of family (IP) Chits.</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1)             | (2)                            | (3)                                   | (4)                         | (5)                         | (6)                                 |
| Rajapalayam ..  | 28th February 1960.            | 15th August 1961.                     | 19                          | 3,550                       | 3,800                               |
| Sivakasi ..     | Do.                            | Do.                                   | 60                          | 5,500                       | 5,900                               |
| Virudhunagar .. | 31st March 1963.               | 30th June 1963.                       | 16                          | 750                         | 800                                 |

#### MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS :—

Employees' State Insurance dispensaries have been set up at Rajapalayam, Sivakasi and Virudhunagar. For inpatient treatment, beds have been reserved in Government hospitals at Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi and Virudhunagar. Beds have been reserved in T.B. Sanatorium, Nagercoil for Rajapalayam and Sivakasi areas and in T.B. Sanatorium, Thoppur for Virudhunagar area.

There was a proposal to construct a hospital at Rajapalayam under Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

#### THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME, 1952 :—

This Act provides for the constitution of Provident Fund for workers in several industries and trades. This Act covers employees in six major industries, viz., cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering works, iron and steel, paper and textiles (made wholly or in part of cotton or woollen or jute or silk whether natural or artificial). The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is controlled by the Central Government through a Board of Trustees, on which the workers and the employers have equal representation. The Central and the State Governments are also represented on this Board. The Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment is the Chairman of the Board and a senior Government Officer is appointed as Central Provident Fund Commissioner, who is the Chief Executive Officer. The Central Commissioner controls the organisation through Regional Commissioners, one in each state and in Delhi. Each Regional Commissioner has the required number of Provident Fund Inspectors who visit the establishments and see that the Provident Fund Law is properly enforced. The workers contribution is 6  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent and this is deducted from his monthly pay. The employer contributes an equal share to the fund.

This scheme ensures a sizable amount to the worker at the time of his leaving the job. Facilities are also afforded for drawing advances for various purposes, like house building, etc. In the Ramanathapuram District, the scheme has been extended to 154 establishments. The industries included are textile mills, road transport, match works, printing presses, rice mills, cement factory, cinema theatres and hotels.

#### OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME :—

The Government have introduced a scheme of old age pension throughout the State including the Ramanathapuram District with effect from 1st April 1962. The pension is payable to destitute men and women of 65 years and over and to destitutes of 60 years and over, who are incapacitated to earn a living due to blindness, leprosy, insanitary, paralysis or loss of limb. The pension payable to each destitute is Rs. 20 per mensem. The pension is sent by money order. An allotment of Rs. 7,94,000 has been sanctioned for this District for 1964—65 towards payment of old age pension. The amount spent upto February 1965 is Rs. 7,22,994.92. The number of persons to whom old age pension has been sanctioned up to January, 1965 is 4,395, out of which payment has been stopped in 980 cases due to death, in 103 cases being not bonafide and in 15 cases for the correct addresses are not known.

## CHAPTER XVIII

## PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

*The legislatures* :—Under the Parliamentary form of Government, ensured by the Indian Constitution, there are the Union Parliament at the Centre consisting of two legislative bodies, viz., the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the State Legislatures in every State consisting of the houses, viz., Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The members of the House of the People at the Centre and the Legislative Assemblies in the State are directly elected by the People, while those of the Council of States and the Legislative Councils are elected indirectly.

*State Legislature* :—In the Tamil Nadu, the State Legislature consists of two bodies viz., the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

*Legislative Council* :—According to Articles 171 of the Indian Constitution, the number of members in the Legislative Council should not exceed one third of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council at present consists of 63 members of whom 54 are elected and 9 are nominated by the Government. Persons who have rendered significant service to the State in the fields of literature, science, art, education, social work, etc., are nominated as members of the Council. The members are elected from particular constituencies in accordance with the system of proportional representation by single transferable vote. The representation for the Ramanathapuram District in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council for graduates, teachers and local authorities is as follows.<sup>1</sup>

The Madras South Graduates' constituency extending over Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanayakumari districts returns one member. The Madurai-Ramanathapuram, Teachers' constituency extending over Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts returns one member and the Ramanathapuram Local Authorities' constituency returns two members.

The Legislative Council of a State is not subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof retire, as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year. Biennial elections are held during the month of March-April, every second year, to fill the vacancies of members retiring in that year

1. Source :—The Government of Madras, *The Madras Election Manual*, Volume III, 1968.

on the expiration of their term of office. The term of office of a member of the Legislative Council, other than a member chosen to fill a casual vacancy, is six years, from the date on which his name is notified in the Fort St. George Gazette under section 74 of the Representation of the People Pct 1951 (Central Act 43 of 1951). A bye-election to this House will be held whenever a casual vacancy arises therein. A member chosen to fill a casual vacancy will serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term of office. The minimum age fixed to become a member of the council is 30.

*The Legislative Assembly:*—The Legislative Assembly normally functions for a period of five years from the date of its first meeting, unless it is dissolved earlier. All citizens of India who are not less than 25 years of age are eligible to contest for election to the Assembly, unless they are disqualified for reasons specified in the Constitution of India and the Representation of the People Act of 1951.

**GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT AND THE HOLD OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE DISTRICT AT DIFFERENT TIMES AS REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1952.**

*Election for the Legislative Assembly:*—In 1952, the First General Elections based on adult franchise was held in the Madras State. It gave equal opportunity to all citizens of different classes to participate in the election. The Scheduled Castes and Tribes were also given special facilities to contest in and to elect representatives to the Assembly. The following table gives the names of the constituencies and the number of general seats and reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Ramanathapuram District :—

| <i>Constituencies.</i>   | <i>Total<br/>number of<br/>seats.</i> | <i>Seats<br/>reserved for<br/>Scheduled<br/>Castes.</i> | <i>Seats reserved<br/>for Scheduled<br/>Tribes.</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| (1)                      | (2)                                   | (3)   | (4)   |
| 1. Srivilliputtur .. ..  | 2                                     | 1   | ..  |
| 2. Edirkottai .. ..      | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 3. Sattur .. ..          | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 4. Virudhunagar .. ..    | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 5. Aruppukkottai .. ..   | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 6. Mudukulattur .. ..    | 2                                     | 1   | ..  |
| 7. Paramagudi .. ..      | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 8. Manamadurai .. ..     | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 9. Sivaganga .. ..       | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 10. Tirupattur .. ..     | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 11. Karaikkudi .. ..     | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 12. Tiruvadanai .. ..    | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| 13. Ramanathapuram .. .. | 1                                     | ..  | ..  |
| District total ..        | 15                                    | 2   | ..  |



There were 13 constituencies and 15 seats in the Ramanathapuram District during the General Elections of 1952. Of these 13 constituencies, 2 were plural constituencies, one seat in each of these constituencies being reserved for the Scheduled Castes. About 1,074,664 persons, of whom 508,209 were men and 566,455 were women, were eligible voters in the District. The total number of persons who voted at the polls was 622,535 which was about 57 per cent of the total number of votes. The number of votes polled by candidates of the different parties in the District for the Assembly seats is given below :—

| <i>Serial number and name of Parties.</i> | <i>Number of votes secured.</i> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Indian National Congress .. ..         | 300,374                         |
| 2. Socialist .. ..                        | 33,326                          |
| 3. Praja Socialist.. ..                   | 20,914                          |
| 4. Communist Party of India .. ..         | 34,143                          |
| 5. Federation .. ..                       | 3,588                           |
| 6. Forward Block .. ..                    | 78,080                          |
| 7. Independents .. ..                     | 288,716                         |

In the contest for the 15 seats in the Ramanathapuram District, the Congress Party won 9 seats, while the Forward Block won 2 seats and the independents won 4 seats.

*Election for the House of the People (Lok Sabha) :—*In the First General Elections of 1952 there were three constituencies in the Ramanathapuram District for the House of the People. The following table gives the names of the constituencies and the number of seats reserved and non-reserved :—

| <i>Constituencies.</i>  | <i>Total number of seats.</i> | <i>Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.</i> | <i>Seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes.</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| (1)                     | (2)                           | (3)   | (4)   |
| 1. Aruppukkottai .. ..  | 1                             | ..  | ..  |
| 2. Ramanathapuram .. .. | 1                             | ..  | ..  |
| 3. Srivilliputtur .. .. | 1                             | ..  | ..  |
| District total .. ..    | 3                             | ..  | ..  |

There were three constituencies and three seats in the Ramanathapuram District for the House of the People. The following table gives the number of votes secured by the candidates of the different parties in the election :—

| Constituencies       | Number of votes secured.  |                  |              |                |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                      | Indian National Congress. | Praja Socialist. | Independent. | Forward Block. |
| (1)                  | (2)                       | (3)              | (4)          | (5)            |
| 1. Aruppukkottai ..  | 70,724                    | ..               | 39,502       | 90,512         |
| 2. Ramanathapuram .. | 109,119                   | 44,118           | 28,478       | 11,883         |
| 3. Srivilliputtur .. | 104,829                   | ..               | 119,285      | ..             |
| Total ..             | 284,672                   | 44,118           | 187,265      | 102,395        |

Of these three seats two were won by the Indian National Congress and one by the Forward Block.

#### GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1957.

*Election for the Legislative Assembly :—*In 1957 the Second General Elections was conducted and the Ramanathapuram District was represented by 14 members in the Madras Legislative Assembly. The following table gives the name of the constituencies in the District and the number of reserved and non-reserved seats :—

| Constituencies.       | Total number of seats. | Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes. | Seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes. |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1)                   | (2)                    | (3)                                  | (4)                                  |
| 1. Tirukoshtiyur ..   | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 2. Karaikkudi ..      | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 3. Sivaganga ..       | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 4. Tiruvadanai ..     | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 5. Manamedurai ..     | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 6. Paramagudi ..      | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 7. Ramanathapuram ..  | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 8. Mudukulattur ..    | 2                      | 1                                    | ..                                   |
| 9. Aruppukkottai ..   | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 10. Sattur ..         | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 11. Sivakasi ..       | 1                      | ..                                   | ..                                   |
| 12. Srivilliputtur .. | 2                      | 1                                    | ..                                   |
| District total ..     | 14                     | 2                                    | ..                                   |

In the Second General Elections there were 12 Assembly Constituencies which elected 14 members. The number of plural constituencies was 2. The total number of voters in the Ramanathapuram District during the 1957 elections was 1,279,613 of whom 596,434 were men and 683,179 were women. The number of persons who actually voted in the election was 702,933 which included 356,134 men and 346,799 women. The number of persons who voted is about 54 per cent of the total voters in the District. The following table shows the number of votes secured by the candidates of the different parties who contested in the elections :—

| <i>Name of the parties.</i>         | <i>Number of votes secured.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Indian National Congress .. .. .  | 3,25,863                        |
| 2 Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam .. .. . | 52,109                          |
| 3 Communist Party of India .. .. .  | 48,597                          |
| 4 Forward Block .. .. .             | 1,52,140                        |
| 5 Independents .. .. .              | 1,68,532                        |
| 6 Congress Reform Committee .. .. . | 1,18,614                        |

In the 1957 Election, seven seats were won by the Indian National Congress, while the Forward Block won 3 seats, Congress Reform Committee one and independents 3.

*Election for the House of the People:—*In the Second General Elections of 1957 there were two constituencies, viz., Ramanathapuram and Srivilliputtur. The Srivilliputtur constituency was a plural constituency one seat being reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The following table gives the number of votes secured by the candidates of the different political parties who contested in the elections :—

| <i>Name of the constituencies.</i> | <i>Number of votes secured by</i> |                       |                   |                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|                                    | <i>Indian National Congress.</i>  | <i>Forward Block.</i> | <i>Communist.</i> | <i>Independents.</i> |
| (1)                                | (2)                               | (3)                   | (4)               | (5)                  |
| 1. Ramanathapuram ..               | 8,9701                            | ..                    | 38,122            | 1,10,679             |
| 2. Srivilliputtur ..               | 3,17,763                          | 3,40,995              | 79,448            | 1,18,113             |
| District total ..                  | 4,07,464                          | 3,40,995              | 1,17,570          | 2,28,792             |

The Congress Party won two seats while the Forward Block won one seat.

Bye-elections were held in the District, for the following State Assembly constituencies during the years given against them :—

Mudukulattur—1957.

Tiruvadanai—1958.

Aruppukkottai—1959.

## GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1962.

*Election for the Legislative Assembly:—*In 1962, the Third General Elections was conducted in the country. The following table shows the constituencies in the Ramanathapuram District for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the number of seats and the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

| Name of constituencies. |                |    |    | Total<br>number<br>of seats. | Seats<br>reserved<br>for the<br>Scheduled<br>castes. | Seats<br>reserved<br>for<br>Scheduled<br>Tribes. |
|-------------------------|----------------|----|----|------------------------------|--|--|
| (1)                     |                |    |    | (2)                          | (3)  | (4)  |
| 1.                      | Thiruvadanai   | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 2.                      | Karaikkudi     | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 3.                      | Thirukoattiyur | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 4.                      | Sivaganga      | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 5.                      | Ramanathapuram | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 6.                      | Manamadurai    | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 7.                      | Tiruchuli      | .. | .. | 1                            | 1  | ..   |
| 8.                      | Mudukulattur   | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 9.                      | Aruppukkottai  | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 10.                     | Sattur         | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 11.                     | Sivakasi       | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 12.                     | Srivilliputtur | .. | .. | 1                            | 1  | ..   |
| 13.                     | Rajapalayam    | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| 14.                     | Paramagudi     | .. | .. | 1                            | ..   | ..   |
| Total                   |                |    |    | 12                           | 2  | ..   |

The number of Assembly Constituencies in the Ramanathapuram District in the Third General Elections was 14 of which two were reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The total number of voters in the District during the Third General Elections was 13,89,243, of whom 6,55,046 were men and 7,34,197 were women. The number of persons who actually voted was 9,90,552 of whom 4,83,734 were men. The table below shows the number of votes polled by the candidates of different parties in the District :—

| Serial number and names of the parties. |                           |    |    |    |    | Number of<br>votes<br>secured. | Number of<br>seats won<br>by the<br>parties. |
|---|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1.                                      | Indian National Congress  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,64,589                       | 8  |
| 2.                                      | Swatantra                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,18,308                       | 3  |
| 3.                                      | Forward Block             | .. | .. | .. | .. | 94,269                         | 2  |
| 4.                                      | Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam | .. | .. | .. | .. | 73,867                         | 1  |
| 5.                                      | Communist Party of India  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40,382                         | ..   |
| 6.                                      | Independents              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31,841                         | ..   |
| 7.                                      | Muslim League             | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13,363                         | ..   |
| 8.                                      | Praja Socialist           | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,283                          | ..   |
| 9.                                      | We Tamils                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,534                          | ..   |

Of the 14 seats, 8 were won by the Congress, 3 by the Swatantra, 2 by the Forward Block and one by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Among those elected to the Assembly Thiru K. Kamaraj Nadar became the Chief Minister of the Madras State.

*House of the People.*—In the Third General Elections there were two Parliamentary Constituencies in the Ramanathapuram District. They were Ramanathapuram and Aruppukkottai, both being general constituencies. The following table shows the number of votes secured by the different parties which contest the election :—

| Name of the Constituencies. | Number of votes secured by |                |           |             |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
|                             | Congress.                  | Forward Block. | Swatantra | Communists. | Independents |
| 1. Ramanathapuram ..        | 1,45,396                   | ..             | 1,14,513  | 75,079      | 18,465       |
| 2. Aruppukkottai ..         | 1,55,919                   | 1,75,772       | ..        | ..          | 8,14         |

The Ramanathapuram Constituency was won by the Congress Party while that of Aruppukkottai was won by the Forward Block.

#### THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1967<sup>1</sup>

##### *Election for the Legislative Assembly :—*

The Ramanathapuram District was divided into 17 Constituencies for the 1967 General Elections. The table below gives the name and number of constituencies :—

| Serial numbers. | Name of the Constituency. | Number of Seats. |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1.              | Tiruppattur               | 1                |
| 2.              | Karaikkudi                | 1                |
| 3.              | Tiruvadanai               | 1                |
| 4.              | Ilayangudi                | 1                |
| 5.              | Ramanathapuram            | 1                |
| 6.              | Kadaladi (Sc) *           | 1                |
| 7.              | Mudukulattur              | 1                |
| 8.              | Paramagudi (Sc) *         | 1                |
| 9.              | Sivaganga                 | 1                |
| 10.             | Manamadurai               | 1                |
| 11.             | Kariapatti                | 1                |
| 12.             | Aruppukkottai             | 1                |
| 13.             | Virudhunagar              | 1                |
| 14.             | Sattur                    | 1                |
| 15.             | Sivakasi                  | 1                |
| 16.             | Srivilliputtur (Sc) *     | 1                |
| 17.             | Rajapalayam               | 1                |

1. Source :—Government of Madras, *Report on the Fourth [General Elections in Madras, 1967 (Volume I and II), 1968.*

\* The seats in these Constituencies were reserved for the election of Scheduled Caste candidates.

In this election the total electorate in Ramanathapuram District was 15,27,821. There were 11,50,440 valid votes. The largest number of valid votes were secured by the Indian National Congress, 4,57,541, amounting to 39.77 per cent of the total vote. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam secured 3,07,377 votes amounting to 26.72 per cent of the total vote. The Swatantra Party secured 2,86,684 votes amounting to 24.92 per cent of the total vote. The Communist Party of India secured 20,834 votes amounting to 1.8 per cent of total votes. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) secured 8,224 votes amounting to 0.71 per cent of the total vote. The Jana Sangh secured 675 votes amounting to 0.06 per cent of the total vote. The Independent candidates secured 69,105 votes amounting to 6.01 per cent of the total vote.

In Ramanathapuram District, there were 17 seats. In this District, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam secured 8 seats, Swatantra 8 seats and 1 seat went to an Independent candidate. The Indian National Congress did not secure even a single seat.

In 1952, there were 15 seats. The Congress secured 9 seats with 39.57 per cent of the total number of votes. The Independents got 6 seats with 55.93 per cent of the total vote. The Communist Party of India got 4.5 per cent of the total vote but no seat. In 1957, there were 14 seats out of which the Congress secured 7 seats with 37.63 per cent of the total vote and the Independents secured 7 seats with 50.74 per cent of the total vote. The Communist Party of India secured 5.61 per cent of the total vote but no seat. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam secured 6.02 per cent of the total vote but no seat. In 1962 also, there were 14 seats out of which the Congress secured 8 seats with 48.67 per cent of the total vote. The Swatantra Party got 3 seats with 22.87 per cent of the total vote. The independents got 2 seats and collectively they secured 15.53 per cent of the total vote. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam got 1 seat and 7.74 per cent of the total vote. The Communist Party of India got 5.19 per cent of the total vote but no seat.

A comparative analysis shows that in this District, the Congress did not improve its position in the 1957 General Elections as it did elsewhere. There was a sharp fall both in terms of seats and votes. In 1962, however, the Congress registered a large increase in the percentage of votes and a small increase in the number of seats. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has shown consistent increase in the number of votes and a phenomenal increase in the number of seats in this election. The Swatantra Party has also done well in the past two elections. It has increased its percentage of votes and the number of seats in the 1967 General Elections. The Communist Party of India has shown a sharp decline in 1967.

*Election for the House of the People* :—In the House of the People, Ramanathapuram District is represented by three persons from three Parliamentary Constituencies of the District. The number of votes secured by different political parties in the Election of 1967 for the House of the People is given in the table below :

| <i>Serial number and name of Constituency.</i> | <i>Name of the Party.</i>         | <i>Number of votes secured.</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sivaganga ..                                | Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.        | 2,25,106                        |
|  | Indian National Congress.         | 1,66,889                        |
|  | Communist Party of India.         | 26,588                          |
|  | Bharathiya Jana Sangh             | 4,795                           |
| 2. Ramanathapuram.                             | Independent Candidate             | 1,80,322                        |
|  | Indian National Congress.         | 1,48,367                        |
|  | Other Independents (3 Candidates) | 53,218                          |
| 3. Sivakasi .. ..                              | Swatantra Party                   | 1,94,364                        |
|  | Indian National Congress.         | 1,62,692                        |
|  | Communist Party of India.         | 55,753                          |

The Sivaganga Constituency was won by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Ramanathapuram Constituency was won by an Independent Candidate and the Sivakasi Constituency was won by the Swatantra Party candidate.

#### THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1971<sup>1</sup>.

Because the Centre has decided to have the General Elections for the Lok Sabha a year earlier, i.e., after completing four years, the State Government also decided to go to the polls for the State Assembly along with the Lok Sabha Elections. This took place in the year 1971 (February –March), when the D.M.K. was returned to power with an unprecedented majority of 184 seats out of the 234 seats in the Assembly. An analysis of the election results is given below :

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<sup>1</sup>Source :—The Government of Tamil Nadu, *Tamil Arasu*, March 1971.

*Election for the Legislative Assembly :—*The Ramanathapuram District was divided into 17 constituencies for the 1971 General Elections also as for the 1967 General Election. There were 1,673,273 voters in this election. The number of persons who exercised their franchise was 1,187,234. The number of votes secured by each party is given in the table below :

| <i>Serial number and name of the party.</i> | <i>Number of votes secured.</i> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam ..             | 4,92,631                        |
| 2. Congress (O)* .. ..                      | 2,48,663                        |
| 3. Swatantra .. ..                          | 1,81,664                        |
| 4. Forward Bloc .. ..                       | 1,18,374                        |
| 5. Communist Party of India ..              | 36,127                          |
| 6. Independents .. ..                       | 52,227                          |

Of the 17 seats for the Ramanathapuram District 12 were won by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, 3 by the Forward Block and one each by the Communist Party of India and an Independent candidate.

*Election for the House of the People :—*In the House of the People the Ramanathapuram District was represented by 3 persons from the three Parliamentary Constituencies of the District. The number of votes secured by different parties in 1971 General Elections is given in the table below :

| <i>Serial number and name of the constituency.</i> | <i>Name of the party.</i>      | <i>Number of votes secured.</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sivaganga ..                                    | Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.     | 2,73,196                        |
|  | Congress (O)                   | 1,73,104                        |
| 2. Ramanathapuram.                                 | Forward Bloc                   | 2,08,431                        |
|  | Congress (O)                   | 1,39,276                        |
|  | Independent                    | 10,641                          |
| 3. Sivakasi .. ..                                  | Congress (R)*                  | 2,35,491                        |
|  | Swatantra                      | 1,49,829                        |
|  | Independents<br>(2 Candidates) | 9,359                           |

The Sivaganga Constituency was won by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Ramanathapuram Constituency was won by the Forward Block and the Sivakasi Constituency was won by the Congress (R) candidate.

\* Congress (O)—Organisation Congress led by Thiru Nijalingappa.

\* Congress (R)—Ruling Congress led by Thiru Jagajivanram.



## NEWSPAPERS

There are many newspapers and periodicals published in the District. Apart from these, a number of newspapers and periodicals published outside the District are in common circulation within the District. The name and nature of newspapers and periodicals published in the Ramanathapuram District are given in the table below<sup>1</sup>:

*Newspapers and periodicals published in the Ramanathapuram District in the year 1969.*

| <i>Serial number.<br/>(1)</i> | <i>Name of the newspaper or periodical.<br/>(2)</i>          | <i>Place of publication.<br/>(3)</i>   | <i>Language.<br/>(4)</i> | <i>Periodicity.<br/>and Daily<br/>(5)</i> | <i>Circulation number of copies.<br/>(6)</i> | <i>Tones and contents of newspapers or periodicals.<br/>(7)</i>  |    |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|---|--|--|----|
| 1.                            | Daily Bombay Cotton Market.                                  | 234, Railway Feeder Road, Virudhunagar.  | English and Tamil.       | .. ..                                     | 110  | .. To publish the rate of cotton seeds, etc., of Tamil Nadu State on Bombay State rate.  | 88 |
| 2.                            | Vivaa Oli  | 2, Raman Koil Street, Virudhunagar.  | Tamil                    | .. Monthly                                | 1,000  | .. For improvement in Viswakarmah community.   | 88 |
| 3.                            | Sivakasi murasu  | 9, Arisikoluvan Street, Sivakasi.  | Tamil                    | .. Monthly                                | 2,000  | .. Moral, Agricultural, Industry, etc.   | 88 |
| 4.                            | Vanika Seithi  | The Virudhunagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 102, Main Bazaar, Virudhunagar. | Tamil                    | .. Weekly                                 | 1,000  | .. To publish import and export trade news received from the Government to publish the Sales Tax, Income-Tax, Excise Duty and other acts and orders and its amendments of the government, etc. | 88 |
| 5.                            | Ethiroli   | 163, Municipal Office Road, Virudhunagar.  | Tamil                    | .. Weekly                                 | 1,000  | .. Political.  | 88 |
| 6.                            | Gandhimathi  | 106/5, North Street, Ramanathapuram.   | Tamil                    | .. Monthly                                | 250  | .. Tamil Literary.   | 88 |
| 7.                            | Madras State Highways Road, Inspectors' Association Tourkal. | 10-B, Katchapatty Street, Kariapatti.  | Tamil                    | .. Monthly                                | 200  | .. Publicity of Association matters.   | 88 |
| 8.                            | Thiagar Oli  | 3-6/7 Colonel Bungalow North Street, Ramanathapuram.                               | Tamil                    | .. Fortnightly                            | 400  | .. Political and Literary.   | 88 |

<sup>1</sup> Source: The Director of Information and Publicity, Social Welfare (I & P.) Department, Fort St. George, Madras-9.

# NEWSPAPERS—cont.

There are many newspapers and periodicals published in the District. Apart from these, a number of newspapers and periodicals published outside the District are in common circulation within the District. The name and nature of newspapers and periodicals published in the Ramanathapuram District are given in the table below:—

| Newspapers and periodicals published in the Ramanathapuram District in the year 1969. |                                      |  |                   |               |                               |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Serial number.  | Name of the newspaper or periodical. | Place of publications.   | Language.         | Periodicity.  | Circulation number of copies. | Tone and contents of newspapers or periodicals              |
| (1)   | (2)                                  | (3)  | (4)               | (5)           | (6)                           | (7)   |
| 9.  | College Journal of Education.        | Dr. Alagappa Chettiar Training College, Karaikkudi.  | English and Tamil | Half-yearly   | .. 150                        | .. College Educational matters.                             |
| 10.   | 1st Service Education.               | Department of Extension Service, Dr. Alagappa Chettiar Training College, Karaikkudi.                 | Tamil             | .. Quarterly  | .. 150                        | .. Do.  |
| 11.   | Viyabara Ithai                       | .. 138, Bazaar Street, Virudhunagar.   | Tamil             | .. Bi-monthly | .. 290                        | .. Mercantile news.   |
| 12.   | Transactions of the Societ.          | The Society for the Advancement of Electro-chemical Science and Technology, Curimager, Karaikkudi-3. | English           | .. Quarterly  | .. 400                        | .. Non-Political scientific.                                |
| 13.   | Current Titles in Electro-chemistry. | Do.  | English           | .. Monthly    | .. 100                        | .. Do.  |
| 14.   | Kalloori                             | .. 13/9, Bypass Road, Sattur.  | Tamil             | .. Monthly    | .. 1,000                      | .. A family magazine with advanced views on social reforms. |

1. Source: The Director of Information and Publicity, Social Welfare (I. & P.) Department, Fort St. George, Madras-9.

## VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

The following are the important institutions carrying on voluntary social services in the Ramanathapuram District.

*The Indira Gandhi Industrial Home for Women, Devakottai,—* The Devakottai Branch of the Guild of Service was started in the year 1950 and the aims and objects for which the Guild of Service stands is well known and its activities are nation-wide. Under the auspices of the Guild of Service, "The Indira Gandhi Industrial Home for Women" was started on 16th November 1958. Poor, needy and destitute women, irrespective of caste or creed are admitted in the Home. The Home has boarding facilities also. The inmates are given training in weaving, sewing, embroidery and other allied crafts. Training is given in needle work and dress-making. In the previous years, some of the inmates who desired to appear for the E.S.L.C. Examination, were given coaching for the same by employing qualified teachers for that purpose. Inmates are given coaching by trained teachers in all crafts inclusive of weaving on looms, Ambar Charkhas and making basket and other articles of artistic value from palmyra leaf. The articles made are sold to the public. They were also sold in the exhibitions held during the Second and Third Five-Year Plan Propaganda Week and also through the Block Development Officers. In the beginning, there were about 11 inmates and the number increased year after year. In the year 1962, as many as 20 women were given training in all the subjects mentioned above. The inmates who are trained in this Institution are enable to earn their livelihood after leaving the Institution by independently practising the craft learnt at the Centre.

The Institution is run purely on the voluntary donations (in cash and kind) of philanthropists and the grant given by the Central Social Welfare Board. In the initial stage, expenses for the running of the Home were partly borne by the Ramanathapuram District Guild of Service of which the Collector of the District is the President. The Collector of Ramanathapuram at Madurai is also pleased to allot a decent sum annually to this Institution from out of his discretionary grant. This Institution is getting supplies of gift articles, such as wheat, wheat-flour, cheese, skimmed milk powder, American rice, beans and other food articles from the Church World Service and Luthern World Relief through the Committee on Relief and Gift Supplies National Christian Council of India. Some philanthropists have also made handsome donations to the school. A number of dignitaries have visited the school and have paid tributes to its efficient working. In recent years training is also imparted to the inmates in gardening and in making plastic articles.

**THE EDUCATIONAL AND THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTED  
BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE RAMANATHAPURAM  
DISTRICT.**

The whole of Ramanathapuram District forms part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Madurai with its headquarters and its head the Archbishop of Madurai at Madurai-8.

*Educational Institutions*—The whole District has 39 parishes and every parish has atleast one school. The Diocese conducts about 69 elementary schools and 56 higher elementary schools. Few among these were the first institutions in the District. About 2,500 pupils both boys and girls are studying in these institutions at present (1964).

The Diocese has two high schools for boys—De Britto High School at Ramnagar, Devakottai and Arulanandar High School, Oriyur. The latter was started in July 1963. There are two high schools for girls—St. Mary's High School at Devakottai and the Sacred Heart High School at Srivilliputtur. The strength of these four high schools is about 2,650 and the Catholic Students form 25 per cent of the total strength.

The Diocese runs two training schools for teachers, The Stanislaus Basic Training School for boys at Sattur and the Sacred Heart Basic Training School for girls at Srivilliputtur. An Industrial School for girls is being conducted in St. Francis Xavier Convent at Srivilliputtur with 37 girls.

*II. Charitable Institutions.*—(1) There are two dispensaries one at Thangachchimattam and the other at Srivilliputtur, (2) Home for the aged, (3) Rescue Home and (4) Creches for foundlings are conducted in St. Francis Xavier Convent at Srivilliputtur. The number of inmates for the three homes are 65, 26 and 32 respectively. (5) Orphanages—The St. Joseph Orphanage at Ramnagar, Devakottai has 110 boys. There are seven orphanages for girls at Srivilliputtur, Andavoorani, Suranam, Salaigramam, Irudayakoil (Thiruvarangam), Thangachchimattam and Sattur. About 952 girls are accommodated in these homes and are provided with food, clothes and educational facilities.

There are three boarding houses—De Britto High School, at Ramnagar, Devakottai; St. Stanislaus Training School at Sattur and Arulanandar Boarding at Oriur. There are about 964 boys in these houses. There are eight similar boarding houses for girls, viz., St. Mary's, Devakottai, St. Francis Xavier at Srivilliputtur, Seven Delour's at Kamudi, Michelpatnam, Sarukani, Sivaganga and Immaculate Conception Convent Boarding at Ramanathapuram. The number of inmates is 678.

*St. Francis Xavier's Orphanage, Srivilliputtur* :— Started in 1911, the Orphanage soon began to cater to the needs of the poor orphans and destitute girls of South India. In this remote part of Ramanathapuram, very backward in education, it was a real boon for all these poor girls where they could get free education. An elementary school was started from the outset, which regularly developed into a higher elementary school.

Year after year, the school registered encouraging signs of growth. More children were taken in. In 1922 there were already 150 inmates. There is a creche for orphans. An unrecognised kindergarten was started, which is still sheltering the children who are below school-going age and prepares them for the first standard.

Buildings were added and new needs arose. A sick room and a dispensary were started with in the Campus, besides three rooms were built to serve as homes of reception for old women, for the blind, the cripple, the aged, the homeless. This orphanage has grown into a small village where the needy are cared for from the cradle to the grave.

At present (1964) the number of orphans and destitute girls runs into more than three hundred. Government grant has always been given for the inmates who fulfill all that is required by Government Rules.

The main aim of this Institution is to educate the girls in such way as to enable them to build up a happy home. The intelligent girls who finished the higher elementary school were sent to training schools. In 1930 a training school was opened to meet the increasing demand for training facilities for girls. The High School for girls meet the need for education among the orphans.

No special trades were taught in these institutions. They learn some needle-work in the higher elementary school. Some who are less clever for studies get some extra periods of needle-work but this does not give any profit to the institution as they are all beginners.

*The District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Madurai* :— The District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Ramanathapuram at Madurai, located in the premises of the District Employment Office, at No. 5, Yesoda Vilas, O.C.P.M. Road, Madurai, is being administered by the Government of Madras under the over all control of the Director of Employment and Training, Madras. The Joint Director of Employment, Madras, is the Secretary of the Madras State Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Madras and the District Employment Officer, Ramanathapuram, is the Secretary of this Board. This Board is functioning under the Presidentship of the Collector of Ramanathapuram.

This Board renders service to the serving defence service personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force and their dependants and to ex-servicemen and their dependants. Following are the salient features of the work done by this Board during the last five years.

About 5,000 ex-servicemen and their dependents who approached this Board for assistance were interviewed and their grievances redressed with the help of the police and revenue officials of this District. A sum of Rs. 28,520 from various Benevolent Funds controlled by the military authorities and by the Secretary, Madras State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board was disbursed by this Board to ex-servicemen and their dependents, who were in straitened circumstances.

Besides, a sum of Rs. 42,320 being the relief from the Indian Forces' Medical After Care Fund controlled by the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, was obtained and disbursed to ex-servicemen who were suffering from tuberculosis and other wasteful diseases, for their special diet, special medicines, etc., Further about 30 ex-servicemen, who were found stranded were paid immediate relief to the tune of Rs. 200 for their food and incidental expenses to return to their homes.

Thirteen disabled ex-servicemen and widows of deceased soldiers were supplied with a pair of buffaloes each costing Rs. 350 for their resettlement. A sum of Rs. 100 was also paid to one disabled ex-servicemen to start a shop and two were supplied with two sewing machines costing about Rs. 300 for their resettlement in civil life. An ex-service woman (Ex-A.N.S.) was also granted a lump sum grant of Rs. 500 to enable her to start a homeopathic dispensary.

During the Chinese attack in 1962, 11 serving soldiers from this District were reported "missing" by the military authorities, out of which five have been reported as 'killed in action', three have been later released from capture by the Chinese and the whereabouts of the remaining three are still unknown. All the above 11 cases were granted ex-gratia allowances at the rate of Rs. 50 per mensem for four months. Action is being taken for the grant of permanent family pension to the dependants of the five cases who were reported 'killed.' This Board contacted the families of all the above 11 cases and rendered all possible assistance.

Out of the five cases reported 'killed,' one Ambulance Sepoy No. 5797987 S. Joseph was awarded 'Vir-Chakra' and the award was presented to his father Thiru S. Singaraya Pillai by the President of the Indian Republic at Raj Bhavan, New Delhi. He was also granted the following benefits :—

(a) a present of Rs. 1,500 by Thiru K. Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister, Government of Madras, and

(b) a present of Rs. 1,000 by the Recruiting Officer, Bangalore from the Madras State Ex-service Personnel Benevolent Fund, to enable him to start a dairy and petty shop.

One hundred and twenty ex-servicemen were admitted and treated in various sanatoria hospitals for leprosy, tuberculosis and other diseases. 130 children and dependents of ex-servicemen were granted scholarships from the funds available with the Regimental Centres/Record Officers. 100 service pension cases, 129 disability pension cases and 33 family pension cases were sanctioned to ex-servicemen and their dependents. 842 applications received from serving soldiers through Officers Commanding Units, requesting leave transfer or discharge were investigated through police revenue or personally by the Secretary of this Board and reports were sent to military authorities. Seven amputated ex-servicemen were supplied with artificial limbs. 892 ex-servicemen who reported loss of discharge certificates were supplied with duplicate copies of discharge certificates to enable them to get their names registered with the Employment Office for employment assistance and to obtain civilian employment.

The Government of Madras have granted educational concession to the children and dependents of serving and ex-service personnel from the academic year 1963-64; accordingly 475 eligibility certificates were issued to the children/dependents of 243 ex-servicemen to enable them to enjoy educational concessions.

A District Ex-Services Centre was built at Srivilliputtur—a heavily recruited area in the District, at a cost of Rs. 45,000 from the balance of war fund collections available with the Collector of Ramanathapuram. This building was declared open by the Chief Minister of Madras, Thiru K. Kamaraj on 10 September 1963 accompanied by the Minister for Finance and Minister for Industries and Labour. The Centre started functioning from 10 September 1963 itself. Daily newspaper in vernacular and other weeklies like *Ananda Vikatan*, *Kalki*, etc., are made available for visitors. Indoor games like carrom board is also made available. Action is on hand to get more amenities for the Centre. On an average 15 to 20 ex-servicemen make use of the Centre daily.

Every year on 7th December, 'Flag Day' celebrated in a fitting manner and donations collected for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents and also for providing amenities to serving soldiers. Suggestions given by the Government of India on the subject were implemented to augment the collections. This District was collecting year after year more than the target amount fixed by the Government of India.

Ex-servicemen's Rally was also conducted usually on the 'Flag Day', on every 7th December when, all the local officials, ex-servicemen, A.C.C./N.C.C. Cadets of the local school, prominent persons of the locality, take part in the rally to celebrate the 'Flag Day' with a view to bring ex-servicemen together and to provide an opportunity for disseminating information on matters of interest and guidance to them to make them feel that their interests and welfare are always safeguarded by the Government.

During the period (1958-63) 984 ex-servicemen were registered in the District Employment Office for employment assistance and suitable jobs were founded for 278 persons according to their qualifications etc.

*St. Theresa's Orphanage, Sattur* :—It was founded in 1st April 1938. It began its activities with 80 orphans. Now its strength is 326 orphans. It helps the orphans to learn the three Rs and teaches some trade like embroidery and sewing. It is completely supported by Government grants.

*T.E.L.C. Orphanage, Sattur* :—It was founded in 1955 and it began its activities with 12 orphan children. The institution is located in a 3½ acre plot of dry land. The present day (1964) strength of the Orphanage is 64. The inmates are enabled to study in Senior Basic Classes and also taught some handicrafts like handloom weaving.

*All Saints' Boarding Home, Pottalpatti (Sriwilliputtur Taluk)* :—It was started by Rev. Robert Peter, G.M.S. Priest, Tirunelveli, Diocese, for the orphans studying in the G.M.S. Higher Elementary School, Pottalpatti. At present (1964) there are 48 inmates in the orphanage. The Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 12 per mensem for 9 months for each orphan. It serves the rural population around Pottalpatti.

*Jothi Gurukulam, Manalur (Sivaganga Taluk)* :—Jothi Gurukulam was started at Manalur in 1956 with 10 orphans. Now (1964) there are 45 orphans receiving free food, dress, residence, education and medical aid. The Institution is giving free Siddha and Ayurvedic medical aid to the surrounding rural population. The institution is getting financial help from the State Government, Central Social Welfare Board and some philanthropic public. Vegetable gardening, flower gardening, spinning, first aid methods in Siddha, preparation of compost, are taught to the inmates in this Institution.

*C.S.I. Orphanage, Aruppukkottai* :—It was started in 1939. It provides separate residences for male and female children. There are 45 male and 41 female children under the supervision of a warden and a matron respectively. Cloth weaving, mat weaving, spinning in *thakli* and gardening are taught to the inmates. It is purely run on State Government aid only.

*V. V. Vanniaperumal Anbu Illam, Virudhunagar* :—The Vanniaperumal Anbu Illam was started in 1960. The present (1964) strength of the orphanage is 16 male and one female children. It is financed from the V. V. Vanniaperumal Charitable Trust. It is now (1964) housed in a new building.

*Jothi Bakthi Pengal Kazhagam Orphanage, Virudhunagar* :—This institution is mainly to look after the welfare of children between the ages of 6 months and 12 years. It was started in 1955. It has a separate elementary school with classes up to VII standard. This has a strength of 140 children. They are



taken on excursion twice a year. Three children are studying in a private school, one each in VIII, IX and XI Standards as these standards are not in the orphanage school. A new building is under construction for the orphanage in a plot of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres donated by Thiru A.S.S.S. Sankarapandia Nadar. The institution is run by the grants from the State Government, Central Social Welfare Board and valuable donations from the public.

*T.E.L.C. Orphanage, Virudhunagar* :—It was started on 1st June 1956 with 20 poor children. Now (1964) it has 57 inmates belonging to all castes. Spinning, weaving and gardening are taught to them. It is financed by endowment funds.

*Little Flower R.C. Higher Elementary School Orphanage, Andavoorani, Tiruvadanai Taluk* :—The Orphanage was started in 1943 with 20 boys. It has now 70 boys and 20 girls. It is run on State Government grants. The inmates receive education upto VIII Standard and are also trained in gardening.

*St. Joseph's Orphanage, Ramnagar, Devakottai* :—It was begun with 20 children who were accommodated in a small thatched shed. A pucca building with facilities for a study hall, a dormitory, a drawing room and a box room was built at a cost of Rs. 15,000. There is also an infirmary for the convenience of the sick. This Orphanage has a strength of 135 boys and 70 girls. It is managed by the Roman Catholic Diocese, Madurai, with the State Government grant.

*T.E.L.C. Orphanage, Paramagudi* :—It was started on 1st July 1946. At present (1964) it has a strength of 176 children. A senior basic school is attached to this institution to enable the inmates to have free education. It is run on State Government grant.

*Balar Pathukappu Viduthi, Sivaganga* :—It was started on 15th February 1958 with six children under the auspices of the Guild of Service, Sivaganga Branch. Now there are 52 children receiving help from this institution. They are taught in tape weaving, towel weaving, mat weaving, tailoring. The products of this institution find a good demand in the market. Some inmates are members in Red Cross Society, Auxillary Cadet Corps, National Cadet Corps, Scouts, etc., of their school and take part in social service. They are also trained in music, drama, public speech, etc. The institution is getting State Government grant at the rate of not exceeding Rs. 10 for each inmate. The additional expenditure is met from the Collector's Discretionary grant and donations from the Central Social Welfare Board, Panchayat Union and the public. A separate warden is looking after the orphanage. It is housed in Tiruvalluvar Nilayam. A thatched shed and tiled shed have been provided for this orphanage in Suddanantha Samajam.

*St. Michael's Orphanage, Salaigramam* :—The Orphanage was started in 1952 by Rev. G. Pignol, S.J., with 20 children. Now (1964) there are 132 children in the Orphanage. The inmates are educated upto VIII Standard and are also trained in tailoring embroidery, dress making, gardening, etc. The institution is run on State Government grant.

*St. Mary's Orphanage, Suranam:*—It was started on 1st April 1950 with 37 girls. Now (1964) it has 108 girls. State Government grant is obtained from 1956. The inmates are trained in drama, music, drawing, trailoring, embroidery, gardening, etc.

*The Rotary Club, Sivakasi:*—Rotary Club of Sivakasi was started in January 1956 with a strength of 25 members and the International Charter was presented by Rotary International in June 1956. The Rotary was founded in 23rd February 1905, by Paul Harries, and has grown into a world organisation with the noblest ideal of Service. This club is one of the eleven thousand and odd of such clubs. The Rotary International has its own constitution and the Club's constitution is also based on the same. The Rotary International is presided over by an elected President and has its Secretariat at U.S.A.—Rotary International is comprised of several districts presided over by respective elected Governors and this Club comes under District No. 320 comprising Southern India, South of Mysore State and including Ceylon with a total of 56 clubs.

The Club's service activities get classified under the four avenues namely club service, vocational service, community service and international service. The membership of the club is from various vocational representation and hence the members are drawn from a true cross section of the community of the locality.

*Lions Club, Aruppukkottai:*—The Club was inaugurated on 20th September 1963 with twenty Charter Members. The Club meets twice every month. The important activities of the Club are distribution of milk and dresses to school children, financial help to local schools, etc.

*Lions Club, Virudhunagar:*—The Club was started in May 1962. The important activities of the Club include distribution of eye glasses to the poor of the locality, blankets to the local hospitals, bed-sheets, dresses to the poor boys studying in schools, etc.

*Lions Club, Sivakasi:*—The Lions Club, Sivakasi was inaugurated on the 9th May 1961 with 24 members. It has from its inception encouraged scholarship and cultural activities. As a part of its functions it distributed free text books to poor students in the high schools of the town, provided free medical check up and free medicines for the students and financial assistance to deserving students in post-graduate and professional courses of study.

*Lions Club, Sattur:*—The Lions Club, Sattur was inaugurated on the 24th December 1963. The important activities of the Club are the distribution of eye glasses to the poor and deserving. It subsidize the midday meals scheme in six of the local schools and it occasionally conducts demonstration classes to inculcate in the public, road consciousness.

*The Schwartz Orphanage, Ramanathapuram:*—The Schwartz Orphanage at Ramanathapuram was opened in June 1959. This Orphanage is attached to the Schwartz High School, Ramanathapuram and is under the control of the Church of South India, Mdai-Ramanathapuram Diocese.

The present (1964) strength of the Orphanage is 50 and the inmates are the regular students of the Schwartz High School, Ramanathapuram. This Orphanage helps in educating a few poor backward children in the suburbs of Ramanathapuram.

*The Young Men's Christian Association, Virudhunagar:*—The Young Men's Christian Association, Virudhunagar is part of a world-wide movement started in 1844 by Sir George Williams of England. It has spread over to 81 countries of the world with 10,000 Y.M.C.A.'s and a membership of 5 million people of different nationalities and faiths. The Association in Virudhunagar was started in the year 1954 and is the first Association started in the Ramanathapuram District. It is affiliated to the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s of India. The present (1964) strength of the members is 150. It provides for playing indoor games like table tennis, chess, carrom and draughts and outdoor games like tennikoit, volley-ball, hockey and shuttle-cock. It conducts tournaments every year in these games. The Association has a library and reading room. It arranges for lectures by eminent men. It arranges picnics, excursions and get-together of families. The Association distributes books and clothes every year to poor students and assists the sick in hospital. Religious meetings are held every Sunday. The Association is now (1964) housed in a rented building in the Aruppukkottai Road.

*Rotary Club of Karaikkudi.*—The Rotary Club of Karaikkudi was started on the 13th September 1951. It is affiliated to Rotary International. To begin with it had a membership of 20 members and Dr. Alagappa Chettiar a leading citizen of this place was a patron and well-wisher.

During the last 12 years the Rotary Club of Karaikkudi strove its best to live up to the ideals of Rotary International. The administration of the Club is vested with the office-bearers and the Board of Directors elected every year.

Karaikkudi was the venue of an inter-city meeting in September 1953 and attracted a large number of delegates from the clubs spread over the Rotary District No. 320. A blind relief camp was conducted by the Club at Sonanathapuram near Devakottai under the auspices of the Bihar Blind Relief Mission a couple of years ago. More than 3,000 patients were given free treatment. The club pays S.S.L.C. Examination fees for four students every year. The selection of candidates for the award is made by the Headmasters of the High Schools in Karaikkudi and Devakottai. The Club publishes a monthly bulletin for the information of its members.

Meetings of the Club are held on Wednesdays every week at 7-30 p.m. in the Alagappa College premises.

## CHAPTER XIX—PLACES OF INTEREST

*Abiramam* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 6,733) is on the Ramanathapuram-Kamudi road. It is 6 miles south-east of Kamudi and 14 miles west of Ramanathapuram. Buses ply to this place from important places of the District.

Abiramam means delightful. The revenue villages of Abiramam and Natham were constituted into Abiramam Panchayat Board in the year 1896 and it was functioning as such till 1936. On 1st April 1954, the two revenue villages of Abiramam and Natham were constituted into two separate panchayats. Both the revenue villages are inhabited principally by Muslims.

There are a big mosque, five small mosques and two durgas in Abiramam and two mosques in Natham. *Subramanyaswamy* temple, *Perumal* temple and *Sappani Koil* are the temples in Abiramam. Festivals are not of great importance.

Mat weaving is a thriving industry at Abiramam. About 50 families are benefited and there is a co-operative society. Buttons, piping tapes, lantern and stove wicks are manufactured at Agathairuppu, a suburb of Abiramam. There is a small unit for the manufacture of mechanical and spring toys. There is a cigar factory which employs about 10 persons.

There is a Panchayat Office in each of the villages, besides a common Sub-Registrar's Office, a Post and Telegraph Office with a public call office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Union dispensary and a high school.

Every Monday is the weekly market day for Abiramam and Wednesday for Natham. Vegetables, dried fish and grocery are sold in the markets. Considerable trade is carried on in grain, cotton and clothes.

There is a popular belief that within an area of 2 miles of Abiramam village, the bite of a snake is harmless.

*Alagarkoil* (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population—Nil) is situated seven miles west of Srivilliputtur. A fair metal road connects this place with Madurai and other places. Buses frequently ply to this place.

The *Alagar* temple has been constructed on the top of a prominent little hill of about 150 feet high called Thirumandri or Mandooga hill. This hill is hidden away in a peaceful spot among the western range which flank on three sides of this hill. On one side through the gap between two ranges can be seen the fields on the plains away in the far distance. The view from the top of the hill is extremely

beautiful. This place was chosen with taste which commands the most beautiful view across wooded spur. At the foot of the hill there is a clear and cool natural stream called *Mandooga* river or *Nupura Gangai* which flows over a little waterfall into a reservoir surrounded by *mandapams* and thence down to the mountain side. This water is said to be very holy and is used for bathing and drinking by the pilgrims. Up the hill is built a winding flight of 245 stone steps. The steps have been hedged on both sides by parapet walls. The flight of steps is exceedingly well proportioned and graceful in effect.

The *Sthalapuranam* contains the following legend regarding the origin of the temple. Once *Sudhabhar* was chanting *mantras* to wash off his sins, immersed in *Nubura Gangai* at *Varaha Kshetra* when *Dhurwasar* came on a visit to meet him. As *Sudhabhar* delayed in coming out, *Dhurwasar* got angry and cursed him to be born as a frog. He was told that he could free himself from the curse if he bathed in the spring at this place. He was further told that if he prayed *Alagar*, he would appear and transform him into bliss. For the above reason, *Sudhabhar* was known as *Mandooga Rishi*. The hill and the spring also came to be known as *Mandooga Hill* and *Mandooga Thirtham*. Accordingly *Sudhabhar* bathed in the spring and prayed to *Alagar*. God appeared and blessed the *rishi*. He constructed a temple at this place and installed *Katta Alagar* also known as *Sundara Rajar*. It is said the idol installed by *Sudhabhar* was a small one and that subsequently a big sized idol about 6 feet in height has been installed.

This place is uninhabited. People come here for worship and picnic on Saturdays when a *Poosari* comes here from *Srivilliputtur*. It is not safe to halt at this place as it is infested with wild animals. Government have provided a colony at the reserve forest border two miles from this place for the tribal people of the place. A *Harijan Welfare School* is run for them.

*Anjukottai* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 2,280) lies 2 mile north of Tiruvadanai on the road to Orur. The bus route is about 2 furlongs away from the village.

The area around this place was divided into five divisions and each division is called as a fort. This place was the fifth fort called *Anjukottai*. *Anju* in Tamil means five and *kottai* means fort meaning five fort. The other four are *Kilakottai*, *Orikottai*, *Kariakottai* and *Pottaikottai*.

This was one of the centres of *Marava Nadu*. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. There are also some brick kilns. It has a *Panchayat Office* and a *Eranch Post Office*.

*Appanur* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 2,174) lies 3 miles north-west of Kadaladi and 6 miles south of Mudukulattur. The bus route from *Paramagudi* to *Kadaladi* runs about one mile two

furlongs east of this village. This link road has to be covered by bullock cart or by walking.

The origin of the name is connected with a legend. It has it that *Siva* appeared through a wedge to king Pandyan Soshendagen hence the name. It is from *appu* in Tamil meaning wedge and *ur* meaning village. It is said that the king visited this place during his excursions and at his prayer time his subordinates discovered that they forgot to bring his *pooja* box containing *Lingam* which he used to worship daily. They hastily prepared a *Lingam* out of wood (*-ppu*) and placed before the king for performing *pooja*. After the prayer, the *appu* could not be removed as it planted itself firmly on ground and transformed into a *Lingam*. The temple is in ruins now.

The village has a Panchayat Office, a Branch Post Office, a Maternity Sub-Centre, attached to Primary Health Centre, a Carpenter's Industrial Society and a Shanti *Ashramam*.

This is the headquarters of Appanattu Maravars one of the seven major sub-divisions among Maravars. They are known for their warlike professions. They are now mostly cultivators.

*Aramanai Siruvayal*—usually called as A. Siruvayal (Tirupattur Taluk—Population 5,239) is situated 12 miles south-west of Karaikkudi and 16 miles south-east of Tirupattur. It has a Railway Station on the Madras—Dhanushkodi Railway line. There is a regular bus service to this place.

This place is distinguished by the prefix Aranmanai (in Tamil means palace) because the palace of Marudhu brothers (1780–1801) was located here. Siruvayal is said to be a corruption of Seruvayal meaning battle field. It is from *seru* in Tamil meaning battle and *vayal* in Tamil meaning field. Fighting took place here during Marudhu period. On 30th July 1801, when the East India Company obtained possession of the village, the retreating Marudhus set fire to their own houses. Colonel James Welsh in his military reminiscences states that the places of Marudhu brothers were conspicuous more for neatness than grandeur and though small, they were extremely solid and well built. The streets, one of which had an avenue in it, were broad and regular and the whole town claimed a superiority over any he had ever seen in India.

The palace of Marudhu was dismantled but the remains are still seen. The village is now the seat of Zamindar of Kattanur Sub-division. He is known as Zamindar of A. Siruvayal.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple with numerous stone inscriptions enshrining *Mammudinathar* and *Karimakadetchi*. The kings of Chera, Chola and Pandya country are said to have worshipped here.

There are three reservoirs in the village. They are said to have constructed by the three kings during their visit to this place. There is one small mosque.

Till recently this village was surrounded by thick forest. It was so thick that the march of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles by the forces of the East India Company took them 6 days to accomplish. Colonel Agnew of East India Company who headed the force against Marudhu brothers formed a road between Kallal and Kalaiyarkoil through this village, a distance of 10 miles between 31st July 1801 to 2nd September 1901. This road is called as *Agnew Wettup Pathai* (in Tamil அக்னியு வெட்டுப்பாதை) even to day.

The village has a Panchayat Office, a Maternity Centre, a Sub-Post Office, a Recreation Centre and a Railway Station.

There is a *Chatram* in which an elementary school has been located.

*Ariyakkudi*.—(Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 2,106) lies 3 miles east of Karaikkudi and 15 miles east of Tiruppattur. Devakottai Railway Station and Karaikkudi Junction Railway Station are equidistant from this place being only two miles. The former is on the south while the latter is on the north. Though there is a motorable black top road to this place from Karaikkudi buses are not plying. From Karaikkudi this place has to be reached by taxis or carts.

Ariyakkudi is a corruption of Harikudi. There is a famous *Perumal* temple at this place and is called South Tiruppati. Hence, the name Harikudy meaning village of the Lord which in course of time became Ariyakkudi.

It is one of the important pilgrim centres in the Ramanathapuram district. The temple at this place is dedicated to *Thiruvengadamudayan* and *Alamelumangai*. The *garba graham* and *artha mandapam* were constructed about 150 years ago by AL. K. MR. Sevugan Chettiar of this place. He was a pious devotee of Lord *Venkatachala-pathy* of Tiruppathi. He used to offer his annual savings at Tiruppathi every year. Lord *Venkateswara* directed him in his dream to construct a temple for him at Ariyakkudi, and worship him here. Accordingly, he raised a temple. Later on, with the united efforts of Nattukottai Chettiars, the temple was enlarged. *Rajagopuram* and other portions of the temple were constructed in about 1916 at a cost of about Rs. 5½ lakhs. The *gopuram* is about 50 feet high. The celestial vehicles of *Garuda* and horse are made of gold while *Hanuman*, serpent and *kedayam* are made of silver. The temple possesses a silver car and a silver cot for the deity. A special feature of this temple is *Garuda* and it is worshipped with great veneration. All the offerings are made generally to him. He is called *Moola Garuda* being situated on the north-eastern corner of the temple. A roof painting in the *kalyana mandapam* depicting all the fourteen

worlds celestial(*Virda Sommam*) is noteworthy. Annual festival is held in May for 13 days. A special feature of the temple is that *Garudalwar* (Golden eagle of *Vishnu*) on the top of the northern wall is worshipped with great veneration. A story is told that in a boundary dispute between this village and the neighbouring Iluppaikudi village, the deity influenced the High Court Judge late Sir T. Muthuswamy Iyer in a dream and that the dispute ended in favour of this village.

Besides, there is a Nagarthars *Sivan Koil*, *Selliamman Koil* and a Church.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Post and Telegraph Office, a hospital and a high school.

The place has great tradition for music and fine arts. The great *Karnatak Sangeetha Vidwan Ariyakkudi Ramanuja Iyengar* comes from this place. He was a pupil of Poochi Srinivasa Iyengar, a great exponent of carnatic music who was employed as a *Sangeetha Vidwan* in the Court of the Ramanathapuram Estate.

The following ballad is connected with this place :

“ அரியக்குடிநகர் அத்தனை பேர் அத்தனையும் விரிசைக்குடியாக வாழ்க ”.

It is attributed to Virasaai Muthappayya Chettiar. Some say it was sung by Avasabayam Bharathi. It is said when the poet visited this place he was not cared for. He began “ அரியக்குடிநகர் அத்தனைபேர் scenting that he was going to curse them, the Chettiers fell on his feet and prayed pardon. He completed his verse as above. It is said that the number of families remain constant in Ariyakkudi.

*Aruppukkottai* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population 50,200) the headquarters of the Taluk is situated 30 miles south of Madurai on the road from Madurai to Tuticorin and 12 miles west of Virudhunagar. Good motarable roads run through this place. Number of buses take off from here in all directions. Aruppukkottai has a Railway Station, and Virudhunagar to Manamadurai Railway line passes through this place. The section from Virudhunagar to Aruppukkottai was opened on 5th September 1963, the remaining portion was opened on 31st March 1964.

It is said that this place was abundant in jasmine buds and hence was called Arumbukottai. *Arumbu* in Tamil means buds of garden plant bearing fragrant flowers and *kottai* means fort. Aruppukkottai is a corruption of Arumbukottai. It is also said that this place became famous by the harvest of the enemy's heads by the prowess of the local people, who were living in a fort and thenceforth it came to be known as Aruppukkottai. *Aruppu* in Tamil means harvest and *kottai* means fort meaning Fort of harvest. This place was originally said to be known as Thiru Nallur.



Virappa Nayaka (1572-1692) who ruled over Madurai kingdom constructed a fort at Aruppukkottai. This place was under the Nayak rule from an earlier period. The fort appears to have been dismantled when the Madurai empire was passing through shattering experience.

An inscription found on the south wall of the central shrine in the *Sundareswara* temple shows that though Jatavarma Sri Vallbha (Pandyas of the Second Empire) suffered a defeat in the hands of Kulotunga Chola, he continued to rule independently with a diminished strength, that he was succeeded by Maravarma Thirupuvana Chakkravarthi Parakrama Pandya who was a contemporary of Kulotunga Chola I and that this Pandya successfully defied any further imposition of Chola authority.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple which is said to have been built by Sundara Pandya. There are a number of inscriptions in the temple. Festival is held in the Tamil months of *Vaikasi* and *Ani*. Besides, there are *Muthumariamman* temple belonging to Nadars in which festival is held in *Panguni*. Puliampatty Saliar's *Sree Ayirangkan Mariamman* temple has a festival in the Tamil month of *Panguni*; *Sivan* temple of Nadars enshrining *Amuthalingeswarar* and *Amuthavalli* are having a festival in *Vaikasi* and *Venkatesa Perumal* temple has a festival in *Margazhi*.

There are a church and two mosques at this place.

Just at the outskirts of the town, on the south-west there is a hillock of quartz rock on the top of which there is a *Malaiarasan* temple.

Aruppukkottai was once a very factious place. It has been traced back to 1914. Punitive Police had been quartered even before 1917. The first faction was between Muhammadans and other communities viz., Christians and Nadars and the more serious one was between Nadars and Devanga Chettiars. A mosque is situated on the main road to Madurai. Muhammadans steadfastly objected to any processions taken on that route. The other trouble was that the Nadars were not permitted to take their processions through any of the public streets except those within the Nadar portion. Nadars as they became wealthy and progressive in trade and education questioned the right of other communities to prohibit them from using public roads on festival occasions. It took a serious turn after 1928. There was rioting and murder from 1928 to 1930. Muhammadans also obstructed the dragging of the Nadar's car and serious rioting ensued. The Police were kept continuously busy. However, they were put down with stern measures. Important changes took place socially and politically after independence and the place is free from communal disturbances.

Aruppukkottai is inhabited by weavers and this place is famous for handloom textiles. Large quantities of handloom are sent to

other districts for sale. The following varieties of textiles are produced at the place :

1. Dhoties of 4 yards,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards and 8 yards in length are produced in cotton yarn of counts 20s to 40s.

2. Towels of various sizes and designs are produced in twisted and untwisted cotton yarn of 20s counts.

3. Art silk sarees of 6 yards and 7 yards in length are produced in art silk yarn of 100 to 150 deniers,

4. One side bordered pieces 6 yards in length are produced here in art silk yarn of 100 to 150 deniers for the stitching skirt to girls.

5. Cotton sarees of varying lengths from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards to 9 yards are produced in 20s to 40s counts of cotton yarn in numerous colours.

6. Bed sheets of size 50 inches into 90 inches are prepared in twisted 20s counts.

7. Blouse pieces of various designs and colours are also produced.

Of the above varieties dhoties of 2 yards length prepared in 20s counts, art silk sarees, art silk one side bordered pieces and bed-sheets are most popular in and out side the District.

There are small-scale industries such as dyeing factories, oil mills, rice mills, straw board manufacturing factory, ginning factories, etc.

This is a municipal town and the headquarters of a Tahsildar and Panchayat Union. A Taluk office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Sub-Treasury offices office, a Post Office with telegraph and telephone communications, a Police Station, a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer's Office, a Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools, Office and a Municipal Office are located at this place.

There are four high schools, viz., Municipal High School, Nadar's High School, Saluyars' High School and Devangar High School. A Government Hospital with a maternity block and a Veterinary Hospital are also located here.

There is a well furnished, electrified travellers bungalow and a municipal rest house.

Weekly market is held on Monday.

*Bogalur* (Paramagudi Taluk—Population 2,281) lies 10 miles west of Ramanathapuram and 13 miles east of Paramagudi on the Madurai-Dhanushkodi National Highways road. There is a Railway Station by name Chatrakudi on the Madras-Dhanushkodi Railway line. This place is catered by public bus service.

This village is said to be described as Raja Ratna chadurvedapuri alias *Therboga Nallur* in the copper plate grant to Uttrakosamangai temple. Bogalur is a corruption of Therboganallur. Bogalur is from *pugazh* in Tamil meaning 'praise' and *ur* in Tamil meaning 'village'.

It is the ancient capital of Ramanathapuram Zamindari. The installation ceremony of the Zamindar as Sethupathi is performed here in front of the *Mangala Vinayagar* temple which is under an old tamarind tree. This tree fell down in the year 1960 and an young tree is sprouting in the same place. Certain peculiarities were associated with the old tree. It is said that its leaves never closed together even during nights and that even if a branch is tapped the whole tree would shake.

The first historical Sethupathi hails from this place. In 1602 when Muthukrishna Nayak, the grandson of Visvanatha Nayak, became the ruler of the Pandyan territory, the pilgrims to Ramanathapuram clamoured for the restoration of the ancient Maravar dynasty as there was no security for the pilgrims against robbers who infested public roads and blackmailed the pilgrims. Consequently, in order to remedy the above evils, Sadaika alias Udayan was appointed as Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram (1605-1621). He is said to have been discovered by the pilgrims when he was sleeping under the above said tamarind tree when a cobra was found protecting him by spreading its hood over his head an omen indicating that he would become the ruler of the country. There was a palace with a fort in this village. But only their remains are seen now. The capital of Ramanathapuram Estate was shifted from this village to Ramanathapuram during the period of Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-1711).

Besides, there are *Kalyanasundareswarar* temple and *Perum Pugazh Koothanar Ayyanar* temple with inscriptions. There is a mosque.

It has a Panchayat Union Office being the headquarters of a Panchayat Union, a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, a Post Office, a Rural Dispensary, a Railway Station, and a Board High School.

There is a *chatram* founded by Mangaleswari Nachiar. It is on the Highways road. An habitation rose round this *chatram* and this area is called Chattrapatti on account of the *chatram*. The Railway Station is also named after it. This is the only charitable institution of the kind between Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram. It affords accommodation to all pilgrims irrespective of caste. A portion of it is now let out as agricultural godown. After the advent of the railway this *chatram* does not attract pilgrims.

*Chettinad* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 1,583) a station on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line, lies ten miles north of Karaikkudi and on mile south-west of Kanadukathan. It is also served by buses.

It is the centre of the home of Nattukottai Chettiars. The place was called after it as Chettinad meaning Chettiars' territory.

This place came into existence about 35 years ago. In 1950, Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad constructed a *Siva* temple at this place. It is striking in its design in that the old temple architecture is not seen here. It is constructed with Urayur-Cuddappah white and black polished stones. Pillars are made of black stones while the *garba graha* is constructed with silver white polished stones. The whole structure is neat, tidy and simple. A stone reservoir adds to the beauty of the temple.

This place contains some fine buildings which were mainly constructed by the Raja Sahib of Chettinad. They are fine specimens of purity and grandeur in architecture.

There was an aerodrome in this place. It became defunct later on. In its place Ramanathapuram District Cattle Farm has been opened on an extensive area covering 1,600 acres. It was initiated on 4th June 1957. Approved breeds of cattle like Kangayam, Tharparkar, Hariana, Murrah, Puliakulam, Sindhi, Tharp-Kangayam, Tharp-Harina, Tharp-Sindhi and others are maintained. In all, there are about 1,460 animals. It has a poultry extension centre also, started on 21st November 1960 with a foundation stock of 90 hens and 10 cocks. A sheep unit was started with 78 sheep on 29th November 1961. The farm affords visual demonstration on various aspects of cattle management, land reclamation, crop husbandry, contour bunding and training in poultry farming, etc., 232 farmers were trained from 18th January 1962 to 16th July 1963 in the Poultry Extension Centre. A stockman course is also conducted here.

Besides, the Annamalai Polytechnic and the Jawahar Spinning Mills are located at this place.

This place has a Railway Station, a Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Office and a Milk Supply Society.

*Cholapuram* (Sholapuram) (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 1,350) lies on the Sivaganga-Tirupattur bus route four miles and 2 furlongs from Sivaganga northwards. The nearest railway station is Sivaganga.

This place is named after the Chola dynasty. It is said that one of the Chola Kings halted at this place and established the *Siva Linga* for worship. Hence this place was named after him as Cholapuram.

There is a *Siva* temple at the north-western extremity of the village. This temple is dedicated to the deities *Aboorva-vageeswara* alias *Arulmoshinathaswamy* and *Dharmasamvarthani* alias *Aram-valorthal*. Ten days festival is held during the month of *Ani*. The construction of the temple is of recent origin. The floor, the

ceiling and pillars are neatly finished ; but the temple contains no sculptures worth mentioning.

This is one of the 96 villages of Nattukottai. Chettiers comprising Chettinad. There was a square mud fort now all in ruins. On 3rd September 1801 Col. Agenew presented the deed of the Sivaganga Zamindari to legal descendant in a special solemn function. Even to day the investiture ceremony is celebrated here. A special dais has been permanently constructed for this purpose inside the Siva temple.

It has a Panchayat Office and a branch post office.

There is a Chettiar *Chatram* which is now used by the elementary school.

*Cholapuram* (Sholapuram) (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population 3,155) situated on the western bank of the *Devanadhi*, lies 12 miles south-southwest of Srivilliputtur and 6 miles south of Rajapalayam. It has a railway station 65 metres from Virudhunagar railway junction southwards, on the Madras-Trivandrum Southern Railway line. The railway station is 2 miles south-east of the village. Being situated on the Srivilliputtur-Tirunelveli Highways Road, number of buses are plying through this village.

The name is derived from Chola, the dynasty of kings who ruled over Tamilnad. It is said that a Chola king having lost his eyes at Seithur in a fight with the Pandyan king came to this place and worshipped the Siva and got his eyes resorted. Hence the village was named after him as Cholapuram. In the inscriptions in the temples, the place is called as Uttama Chola Vinnagaram (உத்தம சோழ விண்ணகரம்).

There is an old Siva temple at this place which was built during the period of Vikrama Pandya. The deity is therefore called as *Vikramapandeaswarar*. The goddess is known as *Kuzhalvaimozhi Amman*. There are numerous inscriptions in the temple. One inscription of the year 1561 records that Kulasekarapandiyan Adivira Rama granted some land to the temple and appointed a Superintendent to look after it. The temple stands right on the western bank of *Devanadhi*. In front of the temple a small stone reservoir has been constructed. At the eastern entrance there is an incomplete but massive *royagopuram* which reminds of similar *gopurams* in Madurai, Tiruppuvanam, etc. The temple is in a bad condition and is on the verge of ruin. It has one *prakaram* with tall pillars and with high stone roofing. In front of the *kalyana mandapam* there are two musical stone pillars. Inscriptions read that the first *kumbabishekam* was performed in *Thunmuki* year. There are references to Pallavas also in the inscriptions within the compound. On the north-eastern corner of the temple, there is a separate temple called *Pothinarayanasamy* temple. From the idol it looks like a Jain temple. One section of the local people worship this deity.

There is an *Alwar Nachiar Mandapam* called *Perumal* temple by local people with numerous stone inscriptions said to have been constructed by the wife of a Chola king. The stone inscriptions in the *Mandapam* calls it as *Uttama Chola Vinnagaram Alwar Nachiar Mandapam*. (உத்தம சோழ விண்ணகரம் ஆள்வார் நாச்சியார் மண்டபம்). One inscription states as follows “மணலூர் பால் தெழிய நெரியில் திருவிடை விண்ணவை ஆழ்வார் கோயில்”.

It is a small temple situated on the south-western extremity of the village dedicated to *Venkatachalapathi Perumal* and *Alamelu Nachiar*.

Besides, there are a *Desika Amman Koil*, a *Mariamman Koil* and a Protestant church.

The village is claimed to be very famous, when a Chola King had a palace on a high level ground near the village called *Aranmanai Medu*. He ruled over this country defeating the *Pandya King*. Old coins of his age is still said to be rarely traced in these parts. In those days when there were no trains and proper roads, this was an important pilgrim centre for those going to *Sankarankoil* and *Tirunelveli* from *Srivilliputtur* and *vice versa*. There were three *chatrams* intended for the pilgrims. Of these, two *chatrams* are in good condition in which the local Panchayat Office, and the Panchayat Union Elementary School and Veterinary Dispensary are located. The Third one is in ruins.

The *Karpagambal Spinning Mill* started in 1958 employing about 600 labourers is located here.

It has a Panchayat Office, a branch post-office, a maternity centre, a co-operative credit society, a weekly veterinary dispensary attended to by a surgeon every Tuesday and a high school. It is the headquarters of a Revenue Inspector *Firka* and *Grama Sevak*.

*Devadanam* (*Srivilliputtur Taluk*—Population 3,863) lies 15 miles to the south-west of *Srivilliputtur* and eight miles from *Rajapalayam*. The bus route from *Madurai* to *Tenkasi* passes through this place.

The word *Devadanam* is derived from the Sanskrit word *deva* meaning God and *stana* is Sanskrit meaning place. Thus it means God's place.

*Nachadaithavirthavar* temple known as *Periakoil* is an important one at this place. It is situated about a mile and a half from the village. It is considered as one of the five *Siva shetrams* in the South and it is called *Akasa shetram*. This temple enshrines *Sri Nachadaithavirtha Peruman* and *Thavampetra Nayagi*. *Pandya Kings* were great devotees of the deities. In the fights between the *Pandiyan* and *Chola kings* the deity is said to have protected and helped the *Pandyan kings*. The *Chola King* seeing that he could not defea

the Pandya King in the open war he wanted to kill him treacherously. He therefore sent a garb soaked in poison to the Pandyan King as a gift. The deity warned the Pandya King before hand about this in his dream. When the gift was presented to the Pandyan King, he directed the messenger to wear it himself. The messenger succumbed the next moment he helped himself to put it on. Hence the shrine was called *Nachadaithavirathavar*, from *Nachu* in Tamil meaning poison *adai* in Tamil meaning garb and *thavirthavar* in Tamil meaning protector.

The four Tamil great saints, viz., Gnansambandar, Tirunavukkarasar, Sundaramoorthy and Manickavasagar have sung in praise of this place. Ponnayera Kavirayar has versified the *Stalapuranam* in 1,103 poems in Tamil. Annual festival is celebrated on a grand scale for ten days in the month of *Vaigasi*. There are 16 stone inscriptions in the temple. Adjoining the village there is a small hillock called Nagamalai on the top of which there is a *Subramanya-swami* temple. Besides, there is a *Madasamy* temple and another *Subramanyaswamy* temple in the village.

Sevega Pandya Thevar who became a Zamindar in 1803 endowed fertile lands to the temple. He constructed an octagonal palace for his summer residence. It is one of the outstanding building in the village. The village was rendered beautiful by him by raising a garden, beautifully laid out with an artificial miniature Courtallam falls in it. Between 1895 and 1902, improvements were made to the temple on the Nagamalai, the compound walls of *Kumarakoil*, the flooring of the *prakaram* in *Periakoil*, and the tank at *Periakoil*.

This is the extreme village of the Ramanathapuram District border. The Western Ghats form its western boundary. It is rich in teak, black wood and other tropical trees. Five miles up the hills, plantain, mangosteen, orange, lime, nutmeg, clove, cardamom, pepper and other trees and plants are grown. There is a picturesque waterfall here.

There are branch post-office, a State Seed Farm, a Panchayat Office and a Devasthanam Office at this place.

*Devakottai* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 25,524) is on the bank of the Virusalaiar lies 64 miles east of Madurai and 41 miles north of Ramanathapuram, connected by good motarable roads. The nearest railway station is Devakottai Road Station, 8 miles west of Devakottai, on the Madras-Dhanushkodi line.

Devakottai is said to be a corruption of Devikottai. It is from *Devi*, meaning goddess and *kottai* in Tamil meaning fort. It is the principal residence of Nattukottai Chettiars who came from Kaviripoompattinam centuries ago. Near it there is a place called Devikottai. Perhaps the immigrants named this place also as Devikottai in remembrance of it.

There are nine important temples besides several other temples dedicated to minor Gods like *Mariamman*, *Karuppanasamy*, etc. *Silambani Chidambara Vinayagar* temple, *Karpaga Vinayagar* temple at Vellayan Urani, *Renganathan* temple, *Sri Ramar* temple, *Sivan* temple, *Thennanchetty Pillayar* and *Sivan* temple, *Nagara Sivankoil*, *Inniseri Sivankoil* and *Krishnankoil* *Nagara Sivankoil* is the biggest of all. *Inniseri Sivankoil* has a lofty tower.

*Ashtami Prathatchanam* is an important festival when all the principal five deities in *Nagara Sivan koil* is taken in procession through the important main streets of Devakottai. *Skanda Sashti* festival dedicated to Lord *Subramanya* is celebrated for ten days on grand scale immediately after *Deepavali* every year in front of *Nagara Sivankoil*. *Thiagaraja Brahmotsavam* festival is conducted on a grand scale for four days in a huge pandal put up for the occasion before *Chidambara Vinayaka* temple when all the important musicians of South India will participate. *Devakottai* is noted for decoration of deities with diamond jewels.

There are two churches and one mosque at this place.

Brass vessel industry and ever silver industry flourish at this place. This place has a reputation for brass vessels and certain styles are characteristic of the place. Wholesale business is also done in groceries. There is a Palm-leaf Co-operative Society and fancy baskets are made here. There are also a few units for manufacturing bricks. The folding of *angavastram* (Upper cloth) called ' *Visirimadippu* ', i.e., folding in the model of a fan, noted for its boldness of form and characteristic of Chettinad is popular here.

This is the headquarters of the District Magistrate, Revenue Divisional Officer, District Education Officer, East Ramanathapuram District, Panchayat Union, Devakottai and Kannangudi Panchayat Union. The place has a Sub-Court and Additional First Class Magistrate's Court, an Independent Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a sub-Treasury, five Post Offices including a Head Post Office with Telegraph and Telephone communications, a Labour Office, a Deputy Commercial Tax Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools Office, an Executive Engineer's Office (Food Production), Police Stations, Taluk and Town, an Agricultural Seed Farm, three hospitals, two run by Municipality and one run by the Government, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Circle Inspector's Office, a Municipal Office and an Assistant Engineer's Office for Highways, two boys' high schools and two girls' high schools.

Municipality is maintaining a well furnished travellers bungalow with two sets of rooms.

In the weekly shandy held on Sundays, commodities like salt, chillies, coriander, pottery wares, bamboo baskets, mats of different descriptions, vegetables and fish are sold. On Sundays



a cattle market is also held on the north bank of the river where large number of cattle from the neighbouring villages to the extent of 20 to 30 miles are being dealt with.

The Guild of Service is running Indira Gandhi Industrial Home for Women, started on 16th November 1958. Students are given coaching in crafts such as, needle work, weaving, sewing, embroidery, basket making and in general education.

*Devipatnam* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 3,581) lies 10 miles north-east of Ramanathapuram. The major district main road connects the town with Devakottai and Ramanathapuram. Bus facilities are available. It is a seaport on the coast of Palk Strait between Tondi and Pamban and a place of pilgrimage.

Devipatnam derives its name from *Devi* in Sanskrit meaning Goddess and *Patnam* also in Sanskrit means city. There is an old *Amman* temple south of the village dedicated to *Mahishasuramardhini*, so called for having killed *Mahishasura*, a giant. She is also called as *Lokanayaki* or *Devi*. The village came to be known after this Goddess. All sea ports are named as Pattinam and this place also has the same signification. This place is also called *Navapashana* in Sanskrit, meaning nine stones representing the *Navagraha* or nine planets (*graham*). These nine stones are 40 yards inside the sea.

It is one of the holy bathing place in South India. The nine stones signifying nine planets were said to have been installed and worshipped by *Rama*, the hero of the epic *Ramayana* on his way to *Lanka*. This place attracts large crowds from all over India, Nepal, etc., during newmoon days of the Tamil months *Thai* and *Adi*. Nearly 10 000 pilgrims gather in *Adi*. For the convenience of the pilgrims there are on the sea shore two *mandapams* called Ramanathapuram Samasthanam Theertha Mandapam and Sankalpamandapam.

There are two temples one dedicated to *Sri Thilakeswarar Siva* and another to *Vishnu*. The *Siva* temple is under renovation. Two mosques and a church are also located at this place. Devipatnam was a port and it was closed in 1954. The chief articles of import previously were paddy, rice, coir, cocoanut, timber, road metal, etc. Goods were also exported from this place to Tuticorin-Ramanathapuram by road. With the increase of lorry services, Devipatnam declined and the port lost its importance.

There is a concentration of Muslim population in the village. About 125 families are engaged in fishing. About 295 skilled people do palm leaf industry, sitting mats, baskets and other articles including fancy goods are made here. About 50 persons are engaged in fish net-making. Palmgur is a popular industry and there is a Co-operative Society with 179 members. Lime

industry is carried on by about 14 persons. Besides, there are oil, Black-smithy and Carpentry Industries. There is a Carpentry Training-cum-Productive Centre and a Black-smithy Training-cum-Productive Centre each having five trainees. At Kannamunai, Point, salt is manufactured. Chank is fished in this area from April to November. Cocoon plantation is cultivated in large numbers in and around Devipattanam. Under the Cocoon Development Scheme a nursery is maintained to promote Coconut cultivation.

An East India Company building is one of the oldest buildings in this place. It is now occupied by the customs party. The Police Station is located in the old fort buildings.

This place has a Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Police Station, a Customs Office, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary and a high school.

Ramanathapuram *Samasthanam* is maintaining a large *Chatram*. There is also a private *Chatram* called Mukkandarayar *Chatram*. Pilgrims are fed freely in both these *Chatrams*.

✓ *Dhanushkodi* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 3,197) is situated at the south-east end of the island of Rameswaram and is nearly 16 miles from the port of Pamban and about 15 miles by sea from Rameshwaram. There are no roads connecting Dhanushkodi. The village is very sandy throughout. It can be reached only by train. It forms a terminus of the Southern Railway and there is a fast mail service, the Indo-Ceylon Express of the Southern Railway from Madras to this place. There is a regular ferry steamer service connecting Dhanushkodi with the port of Thalaimanar in Ceylon. The ferry steamer takes about 2 hours to sail from Dhanushkodi to Thalaimanar.

The island of Rameswaram is in the shape of a bow and is called *Rama's bow*. Each end is called *kodi*, tip of the bow. The name Dhanushkodi is derived from the Sanskrit *dhanus* which means bow and *kodi* in Tamil means tip, i.e., tip of the bow. Dhanushkodi is also called Sethu. Sethu means a bridge or causeway. It is the place where *Sri Rama* constructed the causeway to reach Lanka. The story goes that *Sri Rama* destroyed the bridge with his bow's end after his return from *Lanka*. The bath at Dhanushkodi is considered sacred because of *Sagara-Sangama*, i.e., where two seas Mahodadhi (Bay of Bengal) and the Ratnakara (Indian Ocean) meet. *Valmiki*, in his great epic, the *Ramayana*, says that *Rama* when returning from *Lanka* showed this place to *Sita* from his *Pushpaka* (aerial car) and said thus : "Here is seen the holy place in the great ocean which is well known as the Sethu Bandha and worshipped by three worlds. This is extremely holy and destroys great sins. Here formerly the Lord *Mahadeva* (*Shiva*) was pleased

to show favour to me". The greatness of this *theertham* is mentioned in many Sanskrit and Tamil works. *Rama* is supposed to have marked the spot with an arrow from his wonderful bow.

Dhanushkodi is an important place of pilgrimage for Hindus. It is visited by many pilgrims from all parts of India throughout the year. There is a bathing ghat about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from this place at the south-east end and at the point where the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Manar meet. A strip of land about 4 furlongs width tappers to this point and affords a most delightful view. This is a favourite bathing place for Hindus. There are a *Lingam* and a *Vinayagar* idols housed in a shed at the bathing ghat. The pilgrims take bath here and offer prayers and perform rituals for the removal of all sins. A bath at the Sethu on a New Moon day, *Ardhodaya* and *Mahodaya* is considered very sacred. Here pilgrims bathe and some immerse the ashes of their dead.

Dhanushkodi is a port. It was opened as a port on 1st March 1914 when the Indo-Ceylon connection in this route was accomplished with the construction of a bridge between Pamban and Mantapam over a distance of nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Since then most of the regular traffic and trade between India and Ceylon, formerly carried on through ports like Tutitcorin and Pamban, was diverted through this port as it provides greater facilities and conveniences. As the gateway from India to Ceylon this port is important. Goods from different parts of South India are exported to Ceylon and through Colombo to foreign countries. The bulk of export trade consists of cotton, piece-goods, brass and aluminium vessels, salted fish, oil cakes, vegetables, eggs, etc. There was practically no trade at this port untill the opening of the Indo Ceylon communication in March 1914. Since this date it has steadily developed but this development particularly in respect of passenger traffic has been arrested consequent on home-bound steamers now calling at Cochin where the majority of passengers from South India now embark.

There is a pier at the northern side of the port in the Gulf of Manar. The ferry boat anchors at the pier. The Southern Railway train runs on the pier affording facilities for the passengers from the train to board the ferry conveniently and vice versa. There is no natural protection from storms. Owing to the existence of the reef, "the Devils Point" off the north-east corner of the island, navigation of sailing vessels (native craft) require very careful navigation.

The southern portions of Dhanushkodi are eroded year by year during the south-west monsoon (April 15th to October 15th) the severe period being from mid June to mid August. There is some build up during the north-east monsoon, but this is easily lost during the early part of south-west monsoon season leaving a net loss of

about 20 to 30 feet each year. Now the sea is only one furlong from the railway station. The rapid advancing of the sea has consumed 3 streets, 1 light house, 2 hospitals, 3 choultries, Customs Colony, Post Office Colony, Police Station Out-post, Post Office Building, Ceylong Emigrants Buildings, Panchayat Board Office, Elementary School, *Pillayar Koil*, *Ramar koil*, *Bajanai Madam*, Chettiar Chatram, Rayar Chatram, Sourashtra Chatram, *Hanumar Koil*, *Kaliyamman Koil*, Workshop Colony, a mosque and also a number of huts and houses.

The customs colony at Dhanushkodi consisted of one Superintendent's quarters, 23 quarters for Class III officers and 24 for Class IV staff. There was also a compound wall on the southern side of the colony. The sea was 300 to 400 yards away from the Customs colony wall. The first havoc caused by the sea erosion was in March 1953 when a part of the compound wall measuring 20 feet fell down. During April 1953 eight Class IV quarters were included and rendered uninhabitable temporarily. During the 1st week of May 1953 the entire eastern portion of the compound wall collapsed and in the second week the western portion also collapsed. By July 1953 one Class III and 5 Class IV quarters had to be abandoned consequent on the havoc of erosion during the year. The months August and October 1954 saw the worst onslaught since 1922 with unprecedented flooding of the colony. By May, 1956 only the Superintendent's quarters and 13 Class III quarters were left available for occupation, the rest being either submerged under water or condemned by C.P.W.D. The year 1957, contributed to the rendering of 3 temporary quarters and one permanent quarters inhabitable during the months of May while the same month in 1958 accounted for one Deputy Superintendent's quarters and one clerk's quarters (both Class III). April and May, 1959 saw the Superintendent's quarters and one clerk's quarters damaged. Only one quarter is available for occupation now. Three permanent quarters, though not submerged completely under water, have been condemned by the C.P.W.D. as unfit for habitation.

In June 1961, concrete proposals to have a series of row of palmyrah piles driven sufficiently deep in the sand of the shores at an angle of 30 degree to the line of action of the waves, the interspaces being filled with boulders were put up. The wave action is not perpendicular to the shore line but is rather slightly inclined to the east. It was felt that the staggered rows of piles should be so driven that three feet gap between rows of piles are not exposed to wave action. So, as a further improvement to this, double rows of gunnies filled with sand have been piled up in the shore side of the palmyrah piles behind the boulders to prevent the sea water cutting in. The production work done (palmyrah piles with boulders on both faces) has stood the vagaries of the very rough sea and there is no imminent danger to the buildings. No damage has been done by the rough sea to the palmyrah piles. The total length for which pile driving

had been done is 2,500 feet. Piles had been driven from depths of 5 to 15 feet and heavily armoured on both sides. The cost per lineal foot of protection work including piles, stones and labour works out to Rs. 48.45. The entire 2,500 feet of work was completed at a cost of approximately Rs. 95,000. The work was started on 3rd August 1961 using the pile driver and a Worthington pump<sup>1</sup>.

There is a railway station within the precincts of which the Customs Office is also located. There is a Post and Telegraph Office with a Telephone Public Call Office. There are two Medical Institutions, one Railway Hospital and a Panchayat Union Dispensary. The Panchayat Union Higher Elementary School, a Police Out-post are all situated in one building. Besides these, there are Port Conservator's Office, Pier Master Office, Pier Loco-Shed, and a Panchayat Office. Dhanushkodi is not an electrified village.

There are three Choultries for Hindus. There is also a traveller's bungalow. There are two recreation clubs, one for the railway staff and the other for the customs staff. There is also a *Varasiddhi Vinayagar* temple in Dhanushkodi.

*Elayirampennai* (Sattur Taluk—Population 4,095) lies 9 miles south-west of Sattur. The two places are connected by a metal road. This was a Zamin village and was once the seat of a Zamindar.

The name is from 'Ezhu' in Tamil meaning seven, 'Ayiram' in Tamil meaning thousand and 'Pannai' in Tamil meaning farm establishment. During the Zamindari times it is said that there were seven thousand farm establishments and hence the name.

There are temples dedicated to *Sivan*, *Mariamman*, *Badrakali*. There are also three churches. *Mariamman* festival is celebrated annually in the month of *Panguni*. People from the villages assemble in large numbers from the sixth day to the tenth day of the festival.

*Elayirampennai* is a trading and industrial village. There are 48 match factories, one fire works factory and a dyeing and tanning factory.

It has a Nadar Mahimai High School, a Panchayat Union Hospital, a Police Station, a Panchayat Office and a Post Office.

*Emaneswaram* (Paramagudi Taluk—Population 9,153) is situated on the northern bank of the river *Vaigai* and lies 1½ miles north of Paramagudi. It is on the bus route from Paramagudi to *Ramanathapuram* (via) *Nainarkoil*. The bus route from Paramagudi to

<sup>1</sup> Please see also the Chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation".

Sivaganga via Ilayangudy passes through this village. The nearest railway station is Paramagudi on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line.

*Yema*, the Lord of death, is said to have worshipped *Eswaran*, (*Siva*) at this place to free himself from a curse. Hence the place was named after the incident as *Emaneswaram*. The place is also called *Mallikarjunapuram Prithivanam* in Sanskrit.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple with stone inscriptions and an equally old *Adinarayana Pillayar* temple at this place. The *Siva* temple belongs to the Sivaganga *Samasthanam*.

The temple dedicated to *Varadaraja Perumal* is of recent origin, less than 200 years old, belongs to the local Sourashtra community. *Kumbabisekam* for this temple was celebrated in 1947. Besides, there are *Subramanyaswami* temple and *Gurunathan Koil*. There is one mosque.

*Emaneswaram* has been a Panchayat from in 1924. The two towns of *Paramagudi* and *Emaneswaram* are to be constituted into a Municipality with effect from 1st April 1964. The town is electrified and street taps have been provided with protected water supply. The annual income is about Rs.43,000. The village is said to have been formed about 200 years ago. It is said that the original settlers about half-a-dozen Sourashtras who came to this place from *Paramagudi* on the southern bank of the river *Vaigai* on account of a dispute over temple honours. They constructed a separate temple for themselves here. On account of the availability of good water here more and more people came and settled around the village and village grew up. The predominant community in this place is Sourashtras (weavers).

This is a big weaving centre. There are about 1,500 looms at this place. Six weaving, purchase and sale Co-operative Societies are functioning here. There are six twisting machines and two are ready for operation. *Bemberg* art silk and yarn are woven into fine cloths like sarees, dhoties, jacket cloths, etc., at this place. The goods are generally sold in places like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, etc. Untwisted cupro yarn (*Bemberg*) is obtained from Germany, Western Germany, Bulgaria and Japan. Eight factories are engaged in dyeing yarn. The handloom industry is flourishing very well here. There is a Carpentary Worker's Industrial Co-operative Society. Bricks are manufactured here.

During the reign of Muhammadans a settlement of Muhammadans was established. Many Brahmins were forcibly converted into Muhammadans. The Musalmans help the weaving industry in warping, etc.

Agriculture is the next main profession of this place.

The town has a Post and Telegraph Office, a Panchayat Office, a Child Welfare and Maternity Centre, a Madhar Sangam and a High School. There are six Kala Mandrams and four recreation clubs.

*Ervadi* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 3,757) is a coastal village lying 5 miles south of Kilakarai, 15 miles south of Ramanathapuram, and 22 miles east of Kadaladi. There is a good black top motorable road from Kilakarai. Special buses are run on festival days.

*Ervadi* is a corruption of *Erupadi*. It is from *eru* in Tamil meaning ascend and 'Padi' in Tamil meaning steps.

The fiftyseventh story of *Madurai Sthalapuram* relates to this place. The story stated at page 452 of *Madurai District Gazetteer*, published in 1960 is slightly different from the version of *sthalapuram* of Utrakosamangai. According to the latter, *Subramanya* who wanted to hear the mysteries of *Veda* narrated by *Sundara Linga* (*Siva*) hid himself in the tuft of *Meenakshi* disguised as a beetle. Upon this *Siva* cursed *Subramanya* to become a large fish. The other parts of the stories are the same. *Siva* appeared in the form of a fisherman and caught the fish at this place whereupon *Subramanya* resumed his proper form. The building in which the tomb of Sultan Ibrahim of Arabia is located is said to be the old *Subramanya* temple. The building has all the resemblance of a temple. Now the idols of *Subramanya* are seen at Chinna *Ervadi* about a mile from the *Darga*.

The *Darga* of Sultan Ibrahim who came from Arabia via Cannanore is said to be about 800 years old. The *Sandhanakoodu* (Sandal-Car) festival which takes place during March—April of each year is a notified festival and attracts about 50,000 people mostly Hindus. On the festival day the neem leaves are said to turn sweet. This place attracts devil possessed persons and they are said to be cured. Leprosy and blindness are also said to be healed. A number of miracles are attributed to this place.

There was a proposal to start a Coir Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at a cost of Rs. 12,500 for giving training to 20 trainees for a period of one year in two batches. There is a fish curing yard and a Training Centre for tailoring where 12 trainees are undergoing training.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Branch Post Office, a Maternity Centre, a Milk Supply Society and a District Board High School.

*Gandhamadhana Parvatham* is a single storeyed building situated on a sand hill about 1½ miles northwest of Rameswaram. A black top road leads from Rameswaram to this temple. Bullock carts and *julkas* are available.

*Gandha* in Sanskrit means fragrance and *Mad* in Sanskrit means intoxicate. *Gandhamadhana Parvatham* means hill place of high fragrance. It is about 100 feet high.

The place is important for the temple. It is dedicated to *Rama's*, feet. *Hanuman* is said to have surveyed from this spot the area he has to cross before taking his leap to *Lanka*. The remains of old palace and fort of *Sethupati* are seen around this place. From the top of the *mandapam* can be seen the full view of *Rameswaram*, its natural scenery and the splendour of the setting sun.

*Hanumantagudy* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 2,314) lies four miles east of Devakottai on the Vattanam road and is situated on the northern bank of *Virusull river*. There is a fair weather metalled road. Buses ply on this road.

The name is from *Hanumantha* meaning monkey god and *Gudy* meaning temple. The name is said to be derived from an old temple washed away by floods. It is also said that it is a corruption of 'Adimithikudi' on account of a legend which says that one Sokka Vanigan, whose figure is seen in the temple, purchased the site for the temple from Kalingarayan at a cost of five gold coins per cow's step, a linear unit of measurement then adopted. Hence called adimithikudi meaning foot step village.

This place was formerly the headquarters of a Zamin taluk now abolished. This place is noted for a fine mosque, *Malavanathasamy* (*Siva*) temple and a Jain temple. The tomb of Syed Muhammad Meera Buhari Sub Salukudeen of Mecca in the mosque is very popular. The trustees of the mosque are Hindus and they are maintaining it. Annual *Santhanakoodu* festival which comes off in October—November attracts nearly 5000 people. *Malavanathasamy* temple is named after the disciples of *Chandrasekara Muni*. The legend has it that *Malava*, the disciple was cursed to become a hog by the *Muni* for coming late with flowers for the *pooja*. *Malava* was freed from the curse after worshipping at this place. Hence the name. The old temple was situated on the southern bank of the river. The destructive floods of 1881 A.D. caused its removal to the present site. The old construction has been dismantled.

A Jain family consisting of ten members are maintaining the Jain temple said to have been constructed in 4th or 5th centuries A.D. on the southern bank of the river. Owing to floods in 1881 A.D. the temple was built at the present place in 1885 A.D. Free feeding is done during *Karthigai*.

There was a fort of *Sethupathies* on the southern bank of the river ruins of which are seen even to-day. This place is said to be one of the seven forts of the kingdom (*Elukottai Nadu*). The place has a Panchayat Office, a branch Post Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Panchayat Library and a multi-purpose Co-operative Credit Society.



Weekly Market is held on Saturday in which fish, dried fish and vegetables are sold. Agriculture is the main profession of the people.

*Idaikattoor* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 2,463) is situated on the northern bank of the river *Vaigai* 22 miles east of Madurai, 13 miles south-west of Sivaganga and 7 miles west of Manamadurai. Madurai-Mantapam road runs along the southern bank of the river *Vaigai* and at the 22nd mile from Madurai the river has to be crossed on foot which is about 2 furlongs. Number of buses are plying on Madurai-Mantapam road. The nearest railway station is Muthanendal on the Madurai-Manamadurai railway line and it is situated two miles south-east of Idaikattoor.

As seen from the stone inscription in the ancient *Siva* temple, the original name of the village was Alagia Pandia Nallur. Later it came to be known as Idaikattoor on two grounds. This place was a forest and the original settlers were *Idayars* (Shepherds *Yadhas*). Hence the village was named as *Idayar Kattu Ur* meaning *Yahava's* forest village. One other reason is this forest area was midway between Madurai and Manamadurai. Hence it was called *idai* in Tamil midway, *kattu* meaning forest and *ur* meaning village. In Sanskrit it was called *Madyaranyeswara* meaning the same.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple with numerous inscriptions. The names of the deities are *Adhikandeswarar* and *Vadivulammal*. They are also called as *Manikandeswarar* and *Soundaranayaki*. The temple is in a bad state of repairs. Lord *Subramanya* is very popular. The custom of bringing *kavadi* on the shoulders of devotees is prevalent here. Occasionally serpent *kavadi*, cock *kavadi* and fish *kavadi* are brought. Besides there is a *Kariamanicka Perumalkoil* and *Sithathikoil*.

This place is famous for the Sacred Heart Church. Its construction was started in 1852 by Father R.P. Ferdinandus Celle S.J. of France and the *abishekam* was performed on 15th August 1864. Originally there was a small Church in the name of St. James. As it was too small for congregation, the Father wanted a bigger one. He appealed for funds. An English lady settled in France by name Maria Anna came forward to help with funds. The old church was demolished and the present one was constructed on Gothic style. The church is built in the form of a Cross, the length of which is 150 feet and breadth of cross is 100 feet. It has two pinacles (towers) of 90 feet high. There is a balcony all along inside the church intended for light and beauty. A special feature of the church is that there is no window and no wood has been used except for the doors. Stained glasses have been provided for light. All the statues, articles, glass panes etc., were brought from western countries. There are two monstrances. The big one cannot be lifted by a single person and bless the people with it. It is studded with seven ruby stones round it. It is estimated to cost about Rs. 10,000

There are two bells in the tower, one of which is very massive. It is used by mechanical contrivance. It is said that its gong is heard to a distance of seven miles around. R.P. Ferdinandus Celle S.J. passed away at Madurai on 29th December 1899. His remains were brought here and buried on 13th June 1911. Every year Paschal play is enacted after Easter when thousands of people assemble here. St. Marys' Church at Madurai was constructed in imitation of this Church but it did not come up to the expectation. There is a Convent attached to this Church which is running a Higher Elementary School.

This place is connected with a Siddha called Idaikattoor Siddhar or Madyaranyeswara who lived during the *Sangam* period. He was extra-ordinarily clever and learned Siddha. The fifty-sixth story of the Madurai Gazetteer published in 1960 relates to this Siddha. He was Yadhava by caste. Yadhavas enjoy the first respect in all the temple functions and festivals. He is one of the 18 Siddhars like Agasthiar, Bogar, Gorakkar, Tirumoolar, etc., and had attained *Ashtama Siddhi*. One of the miracles said to have been performed by him was that he changed the position of the nine planets as a result of which a long period of drought and famine which extended over 12 years came to an end, the country had abundance of rain and it became most fertile. He has sung many folk lore verses in simple language and easy metre so that they could be sung by all, but pregnant with philosophy, for example :—

“ மாடு கன்றுசெல்வரும் மனைவிமைந்தர் மகிழ்வே  
மாட மாளிகைப்புறத்தில் வாழ்கின்ற நாளிலே  
ஒடிவந்து காலதூதர் சருதியாக் மேர்தவே  
உட்கிடந்து உயிர்கடந்த உண்மைகண்டுணர்குவீர். ”

The place is surrounded by cocoanut groves and palmyra topes. Paddy, sugarcane, plantains, betel vines and chillies are ngrow. This place is blessed with *Vaigai* water. Sugarcane jaggery is manufactured. Pottery and mat weaving are the main occupations of the people. There is Tailoring Unit for 12 ladies. The village is provided with street taps from an overhead tank. It has a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Rural Dispensary and a branch Post Office.

*Ilayangudi* (Paramagudi Taluk-Population-14,433) situated about 20 miles south-east of Sivaganga and 7 miles north-east of Paramagudi. It is connected by bus routes.

This town is famous among the Saivites as the birth place of Maran Nayanar, one of the 63 Saivite *Nayanmars*. He has been immortalised by Sekkilar in the *Periapuranam*. According to tradition, he never refused alms to religious mendicants. To try his faith, he was reduced to great poverty and distress and on one rainy night Lord *Siva* visited him in the form of a religious ascetic and desired

to be fed. There was nothing left in the house of Maran Nayanar. Only the previous day he had sowed the little paddy he had in the field. He went and collected the sown paddy from his field. But there was no fuel also. The roof of his residence was dismantled for fire and the food was cooked. When it was ready for serving, to the astonishment of Maran Nayanar and his wife, *Siva* presently appeared in his celestial vehicle and translated them to the realms of bliss. Maran was untiring in giving alms. '*Ilayatha*' in Tamil means untiring, *Kudi* in Tamil means village and *Ilayathakudi* became *Ilayankudi* in course of time.

The legend about the place states that *Indra* was the founder of this town and the temples. *Ramanatha-Maharishi* is said to have purified himself of his sin by worshipping *Siva* here. A king by name *Kochadayappan* worshipped *Siva* for a child. Through a curse *Indira* was born to him as a child and was named as *Indradhi Sekara Maharajan* and the place was called as *Indravathara Nallur*. Maran Nayanar mentioned above was a descendant of the above king.

There is a *Siva* temple enshrining *Rajendra Jotheeswarar* and his consort *Gnanambigai*. Besides, there are *Madhana Venugopal Perumal* temple and *Valmelnadantha Amman* temple. The *Siva* temple is said to be constructed by *Rajendra Choleswaran* and there are inscriptions of Chola dynasty. There is a Jain stone sculpture. Maran Nayanar finds a place in the temple. Maran Nayanar festival is celebrated on *Avani Magham*.

*Ilayangudy* is a Muhammadan centre. The Muhammadans are said to have immigrated from *Tirunelveli* and *Tanjore* Districts. They trade in *Rangoon*, *Ceylon* and *Federated Malaya States*. Before they emigrated to foreign countries they were divided into three sects according to their local profession. They were known as *Eruthupattarai*, *Nesavupattarai* and *Kodikalpattarai*. Every sect has its own mosque, *Sangam*, panchayats and recreation clubs. Their attitude is hostile towards one another.

*Eruthupattarai* derived its name from its members trading in bulls. They are said to retain this kind of trade in *Federated Malaya States*. The *Ambalagars* are from this sect and were swaying great power and influence over the rest. They were a terror among peaceful Muhammadans and other communities.

*Nesavupattarai* sect are the weavers. They are the richest of all the sects and the most peace loving. This sect has a mosque in front of *Valavandai Amman* temple. In 1900 a rioting between the Hindus and Muhammadans took place as the Muhammadans objected to the taking of the idol in front of the mosque with music. Punitive police was lodged for two years. Though Hindus were permitted to take the procession with music in front of the mosque, the Chettiars decided not to use music and they stopped it 20 feet on either side of the mosque.

Kodikalpattarai are the agriculturists who are the poorest of the lot.

The chief industry of this town is manufacture of leather goods. There are three such factories manufacturing leather suit cases, hand bags, purses, etc., Making of canvas bags is a speciality in this town.

Ilayangudy is a Town Panchayat and the headquarters of an independent Deputy Tahsildar and a Panchayat Union. It contains a Panchayat Office, a Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary with a separate Lady Doctor, a Police Station, a Deputy Inspector of Schools Office, a Post Office, with telegraph communication and two high schools, one for boys and the other for girls.

There is a small rest house belonging to Sivaganga Samasthanam. It is not electrified. In addition there is a big choultry endowed by a private donor of this place.

Weekly market is held on Saturday

*Ilayathakudy*.—(Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 2,327) lies 9 miles north of Tiruppattur. The nearest Railway Station is Tirumayam which is 10 miles east of Ilayathakudy. Chettinad is 12 miles south-east of Ilayathakudy. Buses are plying to this village.

Ilayathakudy is said to be a corruption of Ilayatrakudy (இலையாற்றக்குடி). In Tamil it means இளைப்பினை ஆற்றும் குடி meaning, village which heals the fatigued or the weary. The legend has it that a Brahmin by name Subadrar, Lord *Indra*, *Devas* and *Kannuva Munivar* were troubled by a giant called *Surapunman*. They were unhappy and could not find rest as they were unable to satisfy themselves with regard to the way of salvation. They found solace and satisfaction as soon as they set their foot on this place and their tiresomeness on account of their extensive loitering in search of salvation vanished and happiness dawned on them.

Ilayathakudy is one of the nine temples of Nattukottai Nagarathars. They are Ilayatrakudy, Iraniyar, Pillyarpatti, Mathur, Vyavampatty, Nemam, Soorakudy, Iuppakudy and Velangudy. The *Siva* temple enshrining *Kailasanathaswamy* and *Shree Nithyakalyani Amman* is about 800 years old. The Pandya Kings who ruled over Madurai, handed over the temple to the Nattukottai Nagarathars about 400 years ago for maintenance as their family deity. Even to-day it is the practice among the Nattukottai Chettians to perform the marriage ceremonies only after wearing the garland worn by the deities on the previous night. A scheme has been formulated by the High Court in its number 72, dated 1st December 1926 for the maintenance of the temple. In pursuance of it there are five trustees. Three of them hold office for five years

The remaining two are selected once in a Tamil year out of four hereditary trustees. *Muthumariamman* temple at Keeranipatty, a village situated 3 miles from Ilayathakudy, *Kattusubbiah* temple at Avinipatty, a village one mile south of Keeranipatty and the *Athistanam* of His Holiness Maha Devendra Saraswathy Swamigal, 65th line of *Sree Kamakodi Pita*, are attached to this temple.

There are seven divisions among the Nattukottai Nagarathars. They are (1) Okkurar, (2) Kalanivasal Kudiyar, (3) Pattinasamiyar, (4) Perumaruthurar, (5) Kinginikurar, (6) Perasendurar and (7) Sirusethudayar. All the seven Nattukottai Nagarathars have built each a *Vinayagar* temple with a tank in front of it at this place. Pattinasamiar claim saint Pattinathar as their family elder. The Raja of Chettinad's family belongs to this division. They have built a separate *Siva* temple at this place. The Kalanivasalakudiyar have built a separate *Perumal* temple for their division in Ilayathakudy. Besides this, there was a very old *Vishnu* temple at this place but it is in ruins. Numerous stone inscriptions are seen in the ruined *Vishnu* temple and in the *Kailasanathar* temple. As many as 20 inscriptions have been recorded. Some are dated in Saka 1448. The inscriptions register gifts of village for services, sales of lands, fixed rate of taxes payable, remission of taxes, provision for burning perpetual lamps, assignments of lands, etc. *Kumbabishekam* of *Kailasanathaswamy* temple was performed on 28th May 1939 and again on 26th June 1958. Annual festivals are held during *Navarathri* in October and *Thiruvathirai* in December of each year.

His Holiness Jagatguru Sri Mahadevendra Saraswathi Sankarachariar Swamigal, 65th line in Kanchi Kamakodi Pita (1851—1890) visited this place in March, 1890 on his way back from Rameswaram. He breathed his last at this place. A small temple has been constructed on this spot and is called *Athishtanam*. *Pooja* is performed twice daily.

His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi *Kamakodi Pita*, the present Swamigal, who is 68th line in succession, graced this place by his stay for 2 years from March 1961 to March 1963. During his stay he convened an *Agama, Silpa, Tantra, Baratha Vidwat Sadas* of experts in *Agamas* and *Silpa Sastras* (Temple architecture) and arranged for the demonstration of the different methods of the popular exposition of the *Itihasas*. More than 100 experts in the *Pancharatra, Vaikhanasa, Saiva* and *Sakta Agamas* and *Silpa Sastra* from all parts of the country attended. Experts from countries outside India also attended. The Ambassador of Thailand, an accomplished dancer and member of the royal family of Thailand, Dr. Raghu Vira of the International Academy of the Indian Culture, New Delhi who visited Indonesia, Central Asia and China and has made a special study of Indian culture in those countries, Dr. Jean Filliozat, College De France, Paris, Dr. Daniel Smith of the Syracuse University in America were some who attended the *Sadas*

and took active part in the proceedings. Daily discussions and discourses, an exhibition and cultural shows were held during the *Sadas*. The *Vyasa Vidwat Sadas* was conducted from 13th to 24th September 1962.

The people here are agriculturists and are mostly dependent on the temples.

It has a Post Office, a Panchayat Office, a *Devasthanam* Office and a Child Welfare and Maternity Centre. Telephone connection is available in this place.

*Iluppaikkudi* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 2,148) lies 3 miles east of Karaikkudi. From Tiruppattur it is 17 miles eastwards. A metal road connects Karaikkudi with this place. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi junction on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line.

In former days there were *Iluppai* (dumppnut) trees at this place. The village was therefore known as *Ilupaikkudi* meaning *Iluppai* village.

It is noted for the *Siva* temple which is one of the nine Nattukottai Chettiars' temples. *Kongana Sidhar* is said to have finally come here and tested the fineness of his gold converted from copper. It appears he wanted to reach 1,000 *mathu* (Finess). He is said to have secured 500 *mathu* at Mathur. God is attributed to be of 1,000 *mathu*. At the point of reaching 1,000 *mathu* his gold is said to have transformed into a *Jothi*. *Siva* here is therefore called *Swayamprakasar*. *Kongana Siddhar* is said to have obtained *Siddhi* in the temple. There is a *Lingam* placed at the spot. The temple is said to have been constructed about 150 years ago. Some of the sculptures are very fine. A small *Ganesa* of 1.2 inches in length and breadth carved with all details on a stone pillar in the *Artha Mandapam* deserves special notice. *Kumbabishekam* for the *Pillayar* temple was performed on 14th September 1959. Like all other temples it has also a big beautiful stone reservoir. One peculiarity of this place is that *Muni* is held in great respect. Festival is held on Full Moon day in the month of *Chitrai*. Floating festival is celebrated on a grand scale.

There is a church in this village.

Dr. Alagappa Chettiar's Arts College and the hostels attached to it and other buildings are located near the railway station. The National Physics Laboratories and Engineering College are located at the place. The campus for the institutions named after Dr. Alagappa Chettiar occupy an area of about 500 acres, which is quite near the railway junction.

The village has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post Office

*Iraniyur* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 452) lies  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Kilasevalpatti, 7 miles north of Tiruppattur and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Ilayathakudy. Buses run up to Kilasevalpatty, from where the distance has to be covered by jeep, car or carts.

Lord *Narasimha* (*Vishnu*) after killing the giant *Hiranya* (father of *Prahaladha*) performed *pooja* to the *Lingam* (*Siva*) here to wash off his sins (*Brahmahathy thosha*). Because of this the place was called in memory of it as *Iraniyur*.

It is a big temple belonging to Nagarathars classified as one of the biggest nine Nagarathars' temples. The *Siva* is called *Narasimheswarar* in Sanskrit and *Atkondanathar* in Tamil. The Goddess of the temple is *Sivapura Ammal*. The temple has two *prakarams* with an outer wall. It has a tall *gopuram* on the eastern side. The pillars opposite to the Goddess are decorated with the figures of nine *Durgas*. Those opposite to *Siva* are sculptured with *Veera-badhar*, *Markandeyar*, *Rudramoorthy*, etc., numbering twelve. All the figures have been finished with great skill that they look like moulded cement figures. The traces of chisel is not seen. All these are cut out of single blocks of stones. The inner *mandapams* enshrining *Siva* are of black stone. *Mahakumbabishekam* was performed on 31st March 1944. It is said that it took 15 years for the completion of the temple at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs then.

It has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post Office.

*Irukkangudy* (Sattur Taluk—Population 897) is five miles east of Sattur where there is a *Mariamman* temple. The village is situated on the northern bank of *Arjuna* river. Bus facilities are available.

*Irukkangudy* is a corruption of the name *Irukkangaikoodu* meaning the meeting place of two rivers. The river *Arjuna Nadhi* and the river *Vaipar* join in front of the temple hence the name. The river *Vaipar*, the bigger of the two, has its source in Vasudeva Nallu hills while the river *Arjuna Nadhi* has its origin in the Western Ghats near Watrap. According to an inscription in Nenmeni, this village is said to have been known as *Iluppaikudy* on account of the *Iluppai* trees.

The *Mariamman* temple is situated between these two rivers and to reach it one has to cross the river *Arjuna Nadhi* on foot. According to a legend, the temple is said to have been built about 200 years ago by the fore fathers of the present *poojaris*. It is stated that a *poojari* girl who was picking cow-dung placed her basket on the ground but could not remove it. She had a vision that a temple should be built there. The deity of the temple is called *Mariamman*. During every Friday there will be a large gathering of worshippers. In the month of *Adi* and *Thai* a great festival is celebrated and about a lakh of people from Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts congregate. Tonsure is the chief offering made here in large numbers. Annual income of the temple is about Rs. 60,000.

Majority of the inhabitants are Harijans. A section of them have specialised in drama, chiefly *Narikorathy*, *Villupattu* and other variety entertainments. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people.

There are four rooms set apart for stay in the temple premises for the pilgrims.

There is a Panchayat Office and a Police outpost at this place.

*Kadaladi* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 2,147) lies nine miles south-west of Mudukulattur. It is the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of its name. The nearest railway station is Paramagudi which is 25 miles north of this place. Buses are plying from Paramagudi to Kadaladi.

The name is from *kadal* in Tamil meaning sea and *adi* in Tamil meaning vicinity. The sea is only five miles from this place, hence the name Kadaladi meaning in the vicinity of the sea.

This place was the seat of a Poligar. During 1801, the Poligar of Kadaladi actively supported all those Shervagars who opposed the British and even sent 300 of his men to Mudukulattur to attack the East India Company's Establishments.

There is a *Mangala Vinayagar* temple and an *Ayyanar* temple at this place. No festivals are held. There is a small church.

It has a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a Post and Telegraph Office with Telephone facilities, a Section Office (Food Production), a Primary Health Centre and a high school.

Weekly market is held on every Tuesday. Vegetables, pottery, grocery, fish and dried fish are generally sold here. No wholesale business is done.

Bricks are manufactured here. Lime kilns and pottery work are the other industries. Agriculture is the predominant occupation. There are two rice mills.

It is an important Trigonometrical Station. It is located on the bank of the *urani*. Folk dances like *Oyilattam* and *Silambam* exist here.

Muthirulappa Pillai, the famous revenue reformer and *Pradhani* of Muthuramalinga Sethupathi (1782–1795) was born in Karungulam, a suburb of Kadaladi. He improved the revenue and account system of the country. He built several *chatrams* along the main roads of pilgrimage. Roads were constructed through forests. Pagodas were renovated by spending large sums. The *Chockattan Mandapam* at Rameswaram was completed by this minister. He is depicted on the walls of the Ramalinga Vilasam as standing behind the Sethupathi. He was on very intimate terms with Colone]



Martinz who occupied the Ramanathapuram Kingdom in 1792 and subdued it for the East India Company. On account of the friendship, Muthirulappa Pillai grew proud and arrogant and consequently the Sethupathi dismissed him from service. Later Muthirulappa Pillai was appointed as " Renter " of the British Revenue to whom the country was leased and appointed for watching the interests of the East India Company. In that capacity he resided at Madurai. He was a great planner and a dreamer. The idea of diverting the waters of the *Periyar* and utilising it for irrigating arid tracts of Madurai District was suggested by him first in 1789 but it was then postponed for want of funds.

*Kadugusandai* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 2,191) lies four miles east of Kadaladi and 13 miles south of Mudukulattur on the Ramanathapuram-Aruppukkottai road via Sikkal and Sayalkudy. This was once the famous Mangammal ratha. Buses are plying to this place.

In olden days this was an important place of halt for pilgrims coming from Tirunelveli District to Rameswaram. A big shandy used to be held here and this was the last shandy in its series in this part of the country. Hence this place was known as *Kadaisy Sandai* (கடைசி சந்தையி) in Tamil meaning last shandy or market. In process of time this came to be corrupted as Kadugusandai.

Muthirulappa Pillai, the famous minister of Muthuramalinga Sethupathi (1782-1795) constructed a big choultry for the pilgrims going to Rameswaram. A portion of the building is in a bad state and the rest is in good condition. A stone sculpture containing the figures of Muthuramalinga Sethupathi and Muthirulappa Pillai is kept in the choultry. A Bench Mark of the Great Trigonometrical Station is located on the steps of the dilapidated western portion of the choultry. The system of land measurement was introduced throughout the Ramanathapuram Estate by Muthirulappa Pillai in 1792. One mode of measurement for wet lands, another for dry lands and a third kind for *Nanjavanpayir* were adopted by him. They were conceived with the measurement of Muthirulappa Pillai's feet. All these new modes of measurements were incorporated in the construction of the *chatram*. Civil disputes regarding measurements were settled by a verification of the measurements in the *chatram*.

The village came into existence after the construction of the choultry in 1792. Some years ago a number of Brahmins lived here. The remains of their old buildings are still seen. After the formation of the Ramanathapuram, Aruppukkottai road via Sikkal and Sayalkudy, the village has become active once again and is improving.

Palmyrah tapping and palmyrah jaggery are done. The village has a branch Post Office.

**Kalaiyarkoil** (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 2,678) is ten miles east of Sivaganga railway station, 20 miles west of Devakottai on the Devakottai—Manamadurai road and 40 miles south-east of Madurai on the Madurai—Tondi road. It is easily reached by buses from all directions.

Kalaiyarkoil derived its name from the *Kalleswaran* temple of the place. Kalayar is a corruption of the word Kalleswaran. During the *Sangam* period the place was known as Kanappair (கனப்பைர்) as is seen from the 21st verse in the *Purananooru* sung by Iyur Moolakizhar, a poet of the *Sangam* period. In the 9th Century A. D. Saint Sundarar described the presiding deity in his devotional songs as *Kalai*. Since then the deity was known as *Kalayar* with the Tamil *ar* suffixed to it denoting respect. The temple came to be known as Kalaiyarkoil and later adapted to the village also.

This place was the seat of kings from very early days. Vengai Marban ruled over this area during Tamil *Sangam* period with his seat at this place when his counter part at Madurai was Ugra Peru Vazhuthi in whose time *Tirukkural* was released. Kalaiyarkoil was the stronghold of the rulers of Sivaganga with a well built extensive fort, known for its strength. In 1772, after reducing Ramanathapuram, the Company's forces marched towards Kalaiyarkoil which was defended by Muthu Vaduganathar. A detour was made with a strong force to the enemy's rear under Lt. Col. Bonjour; the ruler was completely surprised and Kalaiyarkoil was entered. Veera Muthu Vaduganathar was killed and the campaign was brought to a close. In 1780 Marudhu Brothers became the rulers of Sivaganga including Kalaiyarkoil.

On the dawn of the 1st October 1801, the Company's forces<sup>s</sup> advanced on Kalaiyarkoil by three district routes, captured it and dismantled the fort. The Company's forces found 21 guns mostly mounted, a great quantity of stores, and many articles of European furniture and amongst them 2 clocks and several filed glasses.

The temple of Kalaiyarkoil is a very large and handsome building surrounded by a strong stone wall about 18 feet in height and forming one angle of the fort which was dismantled. The new tower on the South was built by Marudhu during his rule over Sivaganga (1780–1801). It is 151 feet tall. Bricks from Manamadurai was brought for building the tower. It is said that after the fall of Kalaiyarkoil, Vellai Marudu escaped. In order to catch him, Col. Agnew announced that if the Marudu did not surrender within the period stipulated the big tower would be pulled down and destroyed. It is said Vellai Marudhu surrendered so that the lofty *gopuram* of the temple may be saved. The Marudhus also repaired the tank called as *Anaimadu* and made a wooden car for the temple. The tomb of Marudhu is seen to the east of the temple facing the

old entrance. The smaller tower on the north owes its existence to Varaguna Pandyan (1251–1261 A.D.).

This is one of the fourteen sacred Pandya temples. This was built by one Veerasenan, a Pandya King. There are three shrines called *Someswarar* representing *Sihoola*; *Kaleswarar* representing *Sushama* and *Sundareswara* representing *Karma*. Their consorts are *Soundara Nayaki*, *Sri Sornavally* and *Meenakshi* respectively. Festivals are held in the month of *Vaigasi* for 10 days when *Teppa Utsavam* is also held. The festival for *Sornavally* is held in the month of *Adi* (June–July). The *Thaipooosam* festival is held for ten days in *Thai* (January–February). This place is known by eleven other names. This temple enshrines *Vishnu* idol also. The life-size stone statues of Marudhu brothers are found in the temple.

Saints Gnanasambandar, Sundareswarar, Appar and Arunagirinathar have visited this temple and sung its praise in their sacred poems. Perumpatrapuliyur Nambi (13th Century), Umapathy Sivachariar (14th Century) and Poyyamohipulavar have also visited this place and sung poems. *Kumbabishekam* after renovation of this temple was celebrated on 11th November 1959.

During the period of the Muslim rule over Madurai Kingdom, the idols of Srirangam temple were brought here and kept in safe custody. They were taken back after the Muhammadans were driven away.

There is a big tank on the southern side of the temple, an exact replica of Madurai *Mariamman* Tank but smaller in size. It is called *Anaimadu* meaning elephant tank. In the middle of the tank there is a *mandapam* called *Meenakshi Mandapam* which looks like a small temple with a *gopuram*.

There are stone inscriptions in this temple dated 1530 and 1532 A.D. recording gift of lands by Sundara Tholudayar Mavali Vandarayar.

When the British occupied Kalaiyarkoil in 1801, they set fire to the village and reduced it to ruins. Remnants of old habitation are still seen in this place. Nattukottai Chettiars improved the village by constructing extremely solid and well built houses with broad and regular streets.

The second unit of Kaleeswara Mills is being constructed here. The foundation stone was laid in January 1964. This place is known for skilled stone masons, *sthapathies* and stone workers. Chillies, paddy and dry crops are the chief agricultural produces of the place. There is also a Oil Producers' Co-operative Society. There are many lime kilns here. Bricks are also made here.

It is the head quarters of a Panchayat Union. There are a Police Station, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Panchayat Union Office and a high school.

There is a travellers' bungalow. It is not electrified. A *chatram* is maintained by the trustees appointed by the Hindu Religious Endowment Board. The Co-operative Stores and Agricultural Office are located in this *chatram*.

Weekly market is held on Monday. Vegetables, millets, and cattle are sold in the market.

*Kaliyanagiri* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 1,348). lies 15 miles north-east of Tiruvadanai. The bus route from Tondi to Tiruttan-danam passes through the place. The place is less than a mile from the sea shore.

*Kaliyanagiri*, two furlongs away from the seashore is separated by an *odai* (Stream) from Pasipatnam. Pasipatnam derives its name from the shrine *Passiamman* situated a furlong north of it. *Passiamman* temple was built by Ceylonese when they ruled over this country for some time. It was their family deity. Marudhu brothers (1780-1801) built a choultry opposite to Pasipatnam on the trunk road from Benares to Rameswaram for the convenience of the pilgrims. A few yards north of this choultry they also built a *Siva* temple. A village grew round these two buildings and it was named as *Kaliyanagiri*,

The name is from *kali* in Tamil meaning appetite, *un* (அன்) in Tamil meaning destroy (தீர்க்குப்), *nagar* in Tamil meaning town and *ye* (இ) is a Tamil suffix called *Viguthy* (விசுதி). Thus *Kaliyanagiri* means appetite destroyer village.

In the early periods pilgrims were flowing into this village from all parts of India on their way to Rameswaram. None was denied food. Hundreds were used to be fed daily and freely. After the advent of the railway, pilgrims have dwindled and now only rations were given to about six pilgrims daily.

*Kaliyanagiri* has historical association. Marudhu brothers in times of danger used to take refuge here. The temple and the *chatram* speak the glory of them. The wooden pillared *chatram* is massive and impressive. The pillars have been so chiselled that they look like stone pillars. Some are elaborately carved. Life-like figures of squirrel biting a fruit and a parrot perching, are exhibited. In one of the pillars a wooden bracelet hangs loose which cannot be removed. In the same pillar a wooden rolling ball has been carved inside, which can be felt and turned by letting in one of the fingers. These are among the exuberance of wooden carving seen in the *chatram*. On the top of the door frame leading to a room called *Annapoorani*, a name attributed to the fact that this was the storage of food-grains, *Gajalakshmi*

has been carved with great skill with the figures of Marudhu brothers on two sides in the pose of worship. The proudest possession of the *chatram* is a colossal statue of *Vallabha Ganapathy* with ten hands with *Vallabhai Ambal* on the left lap. The statue is so fine and impressive that the soul of the artist must have passed into this work. Tradition has it that this *Ganapathy* statue was at the front gate of a fort and on its ruin, the statue was preserved here. Daily *pooja* is conducted.

A few yards north of the *chatram* is the *Siva* temple dedicated to *Viswanathar* and *Visalakshi*. The temple is in a neglected condition. It is under the management of *Sivaganga Samasthanam*. Two massive statues of *Narayana* and *Lakshmi* are relegated to northern gate within the precincts of the temple. Tradition has it that a *Vishnu* temple on the seashore was ruined by the waves and the statues of that temple are rudely put aside here. The *Siva* temple has all the look of a great temple. Marudhu brothers were wonderful reformers of Hindu religion. A revolution in Hinduism was brought by them. Many temples and *chatrams* were built during their period. In the temples he appointed *Desikars* and made endowments to them for singing *Thevaram* and *Tiruvasagam*. This practice is still continued and to him goes the credit for such a renovation. At Kaliyanagiri also a *Desikar* was appointed as *Huckdar*.

A great Trigonometrical Station Bench Mark is located on the foot steps of the *Siva* temple.

There is an old *Siva* temple which is in repairs. This is an important halting place for pilgrims travelling to Rameswaram. A *chatram* has been built here for their convenience. After the advent of buses and railways it has ceased to be of any great use.

The prevailing community is Maravars who are mostly agriculturists. Some of them work as labourers in Vattanam salt factory. A few of them have taken to fishing as an occupation.

*Kallal* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 3,783) lies south-west of Karaikkudi and 15 miles south-east of Tiruppattur. It is a railway station on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line and all express trains stop at this place. Buses are plying to this place regularly.

It is one of the centres of Kallar community. Hence the place was known as Kallar and with time it came to be called as Kallal. Kallarnadu is said to comprise 22½ villages around this place.

It has a *Siva* temple with *Somasundareswarar* and *Soundaranyaki* under the management of *Sivaganga Samasthanam*. Annual festival is held during the month of *Masi*.

A Blacksmithy-cum-Carpentry Training Centre is to be started here very shortly at an estimated cost of Rs. 52,000 with provision for 20 trainees. Coal is said to be available in this area.

It is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union. It has a Post and Telegraph Office with telephone facilities, a Police Station, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Junior Engineer (Food Production) Office, a Junior Engineer (Highways) Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Maternity Centre, *Madhar Sangam* and a high school.

Weekly market is held on every Thursday. Vegetables, coconuts, fish, dry-fish, hides, pottery, sheep and hen are generally brought for sale.

*Kamudi* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population—10,017) is situated on the south bank of the river *Gundar*. It is 12 miles west of Mudukulattur, 50 miles west of Ramanathapuram and 24 miles south-east of Aruppukkottai. From the sea it is only 21 miles north. This town is connected by road from all important places, regular buses are plying to this place from Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Aruppukkottai, Mudukulattur and Sayalgudi.

There is an old fort about 250 years old near the town situated on high ground above the *Gundar* river. This was built by Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi who ruled over Ramanathapuram Kingdom between 1711—1725 with the assistance of the French engineers. This is a small fort but had two lines of fortifications and contained buildings and a fine wall. After the fall of Panjalankurichi on 25th August 1801, the forces of the East India Company controlled this strong fort of Kamudi belonging to Ramanathapuram. The forces of Sivaganga under Marudhu captured this fort. But the fort was soon recaptured by the Company's forces and was dismantled thereafter. Legend says that Kattabomman stayed for a day in this fort on his way to Ramanathapuram to meet the then Collector Jackson on 9th September 1798.

Kamudi is a major Panchayat. There is an independent Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a Sub Treasury Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Board Office, a Post and Telegraph Office, an Electricity Board Office, and a Panchayat Union Office. There are also a District Board High School, a hospital and an office for the Deputy Superintendent of Police.

There is a *Siva* temple founded by Sundara Pandyan known as *Meenakshi Sundareswarar* temple. Festivals are held in this temple in the months of *Purattasi*, *Karthigai*, *Margazhi*, and *Thai*. There is also a *Mariamman* temple. In this temple festivals are held in the Tamil months of *Purattasi*, *Karthigai*, *Margazhi*, *Thai* and *Panguni*. There is also another temple dedicated to *Meenakshi-amman* which is worshipped by the Maravars. There are three churches. Saint Antony festival is held during June. Paravar celebrate this festival. The place is noted for many land marks having some associations with Muslim servants.

There is a big mosque called *Peria Pallivasal* in a large compound with a slender minaret of about 70 feet high. The entire building is of red stone. The mosque was built in Hizri 1311 (Muslim year). It is now 73 years old. The stone pillars are of oriental type. Four massive central stone pillars in the main hall attracts attention as they look like a colossal lotus bud. They are the gifts of Nawab of Arcot. The door frame made of stone is remarkably elaborate in artistic skill. Besides there are two other mosques.

The burial place of Mussafar Avuliya, called *Darga* is very famous. It is on the tank bund amidst a fine grove of green trees. This place is shaded by a number of wide spreading banian trees. This great Muhammadan Saint is said to have come from Arabia. This *Darga* attracts worshippers of all castes. *Kunduri* festival is held annually during May—June when about 5,000 of congregate here.

The *Nagoor Andavar Darga* is situated near the weekly market and it marks the place where the Saint Shahul Hameed of Nagoor rested for some time during his pilgrimage tour in these parts.

Next in importance is *Pitchai Vapa Darga*. It is next to *Peria Pallivasal* on the northern side. He passed away only in 1931 and he is still green in the memory of local people. He performed many miracles in his life time.

The burial place of Muhammed Ibrahim alias Karunai Ananda Gnana Boopathy is near the high school on the *Kottai Madu* (கோட்டை மடு) within the precincts of the Marawar hostel. He was a poet and has contributed some poems.

An Arabic Madarsa (School) is run in the big mosque. Muslim *Oharma Sabhai* and Muslim *Valibar Mandram* are the two associations run by them.

There is a travellers' bungalow managed by the Highways Department. There is also a *chavadi* belonging to the Revenue Department.

Weekly market is held in this town on Tuesday.

*Kanadukathan* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population—4973) lies 10 miles north of Karaikkudi and 15 miles north-east of Tiruppattur. The nearest railway station is Chettinad on the Tiruchirappalli Manamadurai railway line,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Kanadukathan. This place is well served by bus routes.

The area south of the river Vellar was known as Kanadu. *Kan* in Tamil means forest and *nadu* means province. This village was on the northern boundary of Kanadu. Hence it was called as Kanadukathan meaning 'protector of Kanadu'.

This place has a *Siva* temple, a *Vishnu* temple, *Alagia Nachiar* temple, *Ayyanar* temple and four Pillaiyar temples. There are six well built tanks with beautiful flight of stone steps. This place is popular for making brass and silver vessels.

There are a Panchayat Office, a Post and Telegraph and telephon<sup>e</sup> Office, a Government Pentland Women and Children Hospital a Government S.A. Hospital, a Section Office of the Madras State Electricity Board and a high school.

Weekly market is held on every Sunday. Vegetables mutton, fish, dry-fish, pottery, groceries are generally sold.

Kanadukathan is one of the chief centres of Nattukottai Chettiars. It is a most impressive village with massive and lengthy buildings elaborately constructed with well polished walls and stones. Some buildings can best be described as miniature palaces. To a non-Nattukottai Chettiyar he would discover a new type of form of constructing buildings for residence. These houses are not limited to living alone. The size and nature of the building tells about the prosperity of owner. The buildings are spacious and they provide for ceremonial occasions when hundreds of guests have to be accommodated, for storage of provisions and other articles for long.

Kandadevi (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 2,505) lies three miles north-west of Devakottai on the road to Karaikkudi via Amaravathipudur. Buses ply to this place.

Kandadevi means a place where *Devi* was seen. The legend has it that Goddess *Parvathy* appeared before the *rishies* at this place when they prayed for protection against the tyrannies of *Sandha Asuran*, a giant. Since the *rishies* saw the Goddess at this place it was named as Kandadevi.

This was the seat of a Zamin taluk of the Sivaganga Zamindari before the abolition of Zamindari. The place is now important for a well built *Siva* temple with a high tower, enshrining *Shree Swarnamoorthy*. During the *Brahmotsavam* car festival nearly 5,000 people from the neighbouring places will assemble.

It has a branch Post-Office and a Police out-post.

There are two private *chatrams*.

Karaikkudi (Tirupattur Taluk—Population—43,698) is a Railway Junction on the Madras—Dhanushkodi Railway Line 13 miles east of Tirupattur. Bus routes radiate from here in all directions and to all important places. The State Express bus from Nagapattinam to Ramanathapuram and vice versa passes through this place.

In former days this was a forest with *Karai* (Tamil) plant, thorny wehara *Canthium Parviflorum*. Hence it was named as Karaikkudi meaning *Karai* (Thorny plant) village. In ancient



days this place has been referred to as Kareegudy in Tamil classical literature. The present name is a corruption of it.

About 75 years ago it was a small town. A Panchayat Union Board was constituted in 1885. It was converted into a Municipality on 1st September 1928. It is now a second class Municipality with an annual income of about Rs. 6 lakhs covering an area of five and a half square miles.

There are many temples at this place. *Koppudayamman* temple is an important temple in which annual festival is held for 10 days in the Tamil month of *Vaikasi*. Then the diety is profusely decorated with costly diamond jewels supplied by Nattukottai Chettiaris. *Nagarathar Sivan Koil* (Festival in the month of *Adi*), *Perumal* temple, *Krishnan Koil* (festival in the month of *Panguni*), *Kalanivasal Perumal Koil* and *Muthalamman Koil* (Pongal festival in *Vaikasi*) are the other temples. There are two churches and one mosque.

It is seen from old Tamil literature that an army called *Yezhagapadai* (யேழகாபடை) from Kalanivasal (a portion of Karaikudi) was engaged in the fight between the Pandya and Chola Kings.

Karaikkudi is an industrial trading and educational centre. This place is noted for the processing of betelnuts called *Seeval* (சீவல்) and chewing tobacco. Cycle carrier and frames, slates, brass metal, manufacture of stainless steel vessels, silver works, sherbat essences, radio production, automobile part B are also manufactured here. Diamond cutters and gold-smiths of this place are noted for their skill. There are 15 rice mills and three saw mills. There are 2,000 handlooms and six dyeing factories here. Sarees in cotton and art silk are manufactured and exported to other parts of the State. There is an Industrial Estate in the outskirts of the town.

There are whole-sale traders in groceries, paddy, rice, pulses sugar, building materials etc., catering to the needs of Tiruvadanai and Tiruppattur Taluks.

It has an Independent Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a District Forest Office, Income-tax Offices (three circles), an Assistant Engineer's Office (Madras State Electricity Board), two Police Stations, a Sub-Treasury, an Officer of an Assistant Inspector of Fisheries, a Fire Station, a Post and Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Court, an Office of the Sub-Inspector of Central Excise, an Office of the Assistant Labour Inspector, an Assistant Engineer's Office (Food Production), a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer's Office, a Telephone Exchange, a Head Post Office, a Forest Range Office, a Municipal Office, a Municipal Men Hospital, a Municipal Women and Children Hospital, Municipal Maternity Hospital, the Office of an Assistant Engineer (P.W.D.) and one District Central Library Branch.

Besides, there are eleven banks, three stock exchange brokers, a Government khadi depot, a co-operative milk supply society, a weaver's society and a building society.

There are two high schools for boys and girls and one high school exclusively for girls. A Model High School is attached to Alagappa Training College. There is a Montessori School for children. There are a School for Deaf and Dumb, a Harijan residential school and a Health Centre for physical exercises. Dr. R. M. Alagappa Chettiar of Kottaiyur has endowed many educational institutions, like Alagappa Chettiar College of Arts and Science, Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering, Alagappa Chettiar Polytechnic, Alagappa Chettiar's Teachers' Training College, and Alagappa Chettiar's Physical Training College. To Dr. R. M. Alagappa Chettiar goes the credit of locating the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute in Karaikkudi by offering a donation of Rs. 15 lakhs and a free gift of 300 acres of land at Karaikkudi for this institute. The foundation stone was laid by Jawaharlal Nehru on 25th July 1948. It was completed by the end of 1952. It provides excellent facilities for research in fundamental and applied branches of electro chemical technology. A number of research workers drawn from different parts of India work in this Central Research Laboratory.

There is one *Jumbai Oothu*, an artesian well, capable of yielding about 50,000 gallons of water a day even in mid-summer. From this, water is pumped into service tanks and distributed to public fountains. There are four parks in this Municipality.

Kambar festival is celebrated here every year for three days during *Panguni* on a grand scale when Tamil scholars meet and discuss about *Kamba Ramayanam*.

Nattukottai Chettiars are foremost in this place in trade and commerce. They have business in Malaya, Indonesia, Colombo, etc. In this aspect it is next in importance to Devakottai.

There is a Municipal travellers' bungalow. A weekly market is held on every Monday. In former days wholesale business used to be transacted here. After the improvement of roads and bus traffic, the traders go to villages and purchase the commodities directly from the producers. Wholesale business has therefore dwindled considerably. Some wholesale transactions take place now-a-days in rice, paddy, groceries, pulses, etc. Separate weekly markets are held on Monday for sale of sheep and goat, and for fuel and straw.

Lignite is found around this place. If mining of this lignite is found feasible the importance of this place may grow still further.

**Kariyapatti** (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population : 4,252) is the head-quarters of a Panchayat Union of its name. It is situated 12 miles north of Aruppukkottai and 18 miles south of Madurai, on the Madurai-Aruppukkottai Highways road. Buses are plying at an interval of half-an-hour. The nearest Railway Station is Aruppukkottai on the Virudhunagar—Manamadurai Railway line.

It is said that one Kathiyar Moopanar first settled here and a village grew around him. The place was then called as Kathiapatty meaning village of Kathia (Moopanar). In due course it came to be known as Kariapatty. Kariapatty is a corruption of Kathiapatty.

There are minor village temples like *Muthalamman*. There are one church and one mosque.

It has a Carpentry Unit giving training for ten trainees, a Groundnut-Decorticator, and Groundnut Oilpress. There is also a Palm leaf Workers' Society wherein, palm leaf products such as mats, baskets and other agricultural necessities are made. A Poultry Unit, a Co-operative Milk Supply Society and a Co-operative Housing Society are also functioning at this place.

There is a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Post Office, a Police Station, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, a Primary Health Centre, a veterinary dispensary, a Section Office (Food Production), a Co-operative Agricultural Bank and a high school.

Shandy is held on a limited scale on every Wednesday wherein earthen ware, vegetables, mutton, sarees, grocery, poultry, goats and ghee are sold. The shandy usually attracts about 200 to 500 persons.

There is an electrified and furnished travellers' bungalow maintained by the Highways Department.

**Kilakkarai** (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population—16,860) lies 11 miles south-west of Ramanathapuram. Buses ply regularly between Ramanathapuram and Kilakkarai. It is also a port on the Gulf of Manar and can be reached by sea. It is situated between the ports of Pamban and Tuticorin.

Etymologically Kilakkarai means east coast. It is derived from the Tamil words *kizh* (கிழ) meaning east and *Karai* (கரை) in Tamil meaning coast.

There are 12 mosques in this place. The Jamma Masjid is the important one in which there are the tombs of Sithakathi Marakayar and Sathakkthulla Appa. There is an ancient *Siva* temple dedicated to *Chokanathaswami* built by Varaguna Pandyan. Besides, here are temples dedicated to *Pillayar*, *Ugra Veera Mahaliamman*, *ubramanyaswamy* and *Mariamman*. There are Tamil inscriptions of the period 1538-47 which refer to Achyuta Raya and

**Timmusi Nayakar.** There is a small Roman Catholic Church adjacent to the ruins of a Dutch factory, the Saint Anthony's Church built in 1816. Within the precincts, a mound has been put up to resemble Lady of the Lourdes. Sithakathi the Muslim patron of poets, rests in a beautiful mosque built in eastern style which looks more like a *mandapam*.

From the middle of eighteenth century this place was subjected to foreign invasion. In 1759 the Sethupathis permitted the Dutch to trade in their territories and entered into a treaty with them. But the Dutch built fortresses in this place in violation of the treaty with the Sethupathis. Dalavoy Damodaram Pillai entered into a treaty with the Dutch East India Company on 24th June 1767 by which the Dutch were given many concessions including repairing their establishment at Kilakkarai, tax concessions, control over Pamban canal, etc. Some of the buildings constructed by the Dutch still remain. The walls of the building are 3 to 4 feet in breadth and are very strongly built.

There are a few islands a few miles to the south of the port which act as a break water. There is a channel starting from Valinokam point 13 miles south-west running between the shore and the islands as far as Pamban, a distance of 43 miles. This is called Kilakkarai channel.

The port is open to foreign trade but it is of little importance. There is good export trade to Jaffna, Kaits, Talaimanar, Beruwalla, Negomba and Colombo. Chanks are exported to Calcutta via Tuticorin where they are made into bangles, rings and beads. The chief articles of coastwise imports are rice, paddy, cotton seeds, grains of all sorts and sundries. The chief articles of export are firewood, chank, chank beads, palmyrah fibre and cocoanut. Firewood is exported in large quantities from this port to Tuticorin and the trade is carried on throughout the year. Palmyrah fibre is collected from the villages adjoining the coast and shipped to Tuticorin and thence to Europe.

The port was flourishing some 80 years ago but began to decline in importance after the opening of the railway to Tuticorin and more especially after the opening of the Madurai-Dhanushkodi line. Ramanathapuram Railway Station is within 11 miles of the port and almost all articles intended for Ramanathapuram town and adjacent places which were formerly shipped to Kilakkarai are brought by rail.

Kilakkarai is densely populated, the predominant section of it being Muslims. Many of the Muslims are traders in Ceylon and deal in pearls, rubies and chanks. Kilakkarai is famous for its

Muslim pearl divers. Chank fishing at Tuticorin, Rameswaram, Devipatnam, Ceylon and other places is mostly carried on by them. Kilakkarai people are famous for assessing the worth of pearls, chanks, etc.

Pearls and chanks are fished off the mainland, north and south of Kilakkarai. This area is leased out. There is one major factory dealing in chanks. About 100 families in Kilakkarai are engaged in chank works as cottage industry. The raw chanks are first rubbed on stone, cleared with Nitric acid and then polished. Thereafter it is made into bangles, rings, lamps, paper weights, milk-feeders, etc. Each member will earn about Re. 1 per day as part-time work. The divers earn more depending upon the number and the quality of the chanks caught. Some may even earn more than Rs. 15 per day, which means they should dive often and expose themselves to greater risks. Kilakkarai is also noted for fishing.

A number of small ice plants and cold storages have been put up in Kilakkarai by the Department of Fisheries.

Large trade in *pathaneer* (sweet-toddy) is carried on in Kilakkarai. A Co-operative Society has been formed for improving the trade in palm gur. This place is also known for *sillukaruppatty*. Fine and coarse long-cloths and carpets are manufactured at this place. There is one Tailoring Cottage Industrial and Co-operative Society at this place. Gypsum occurs in Kilakkarai area in black soil. Thick groves of cocoanut and palmyrah trees are in abundance. Mango trees also flourish here. Palm leaf cottage industries are also found in this place.

This place has a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Post Office with telegraph and telephone communications, a Police Station, a Customs Office, a Port Conservator's Office, the Office of the Inspector of Fisheries, a Government Hospital with a separate lady doctor and a Government High School.

*Kilkidaram* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population: 3,777) lies eleven miles east of Kadaladi. The bus route from Ramanathapuram to Aruppukkottai (via) Sikkal and Sayalkudy passes about a mile from this village.

There are two villages of the same name and this village lies in the east. Hence it is called *Kil* (East) Kidaram. Burma is called Kidaram. This village was named after Burma on account of trade connections with it.

There are *Ariyanayakiamman* temple and *Kamatchiamman* temple besides other village deities. A church also exists.

It has a branch Post-Office. This village is included in Valinokam Panchayat.

**Manavala mamunivar** (மணவாளமாமுனிவர்), a great *Vaishnava* saint, was born in this village. He has been immortalised by a stone image in the *Sundararaja Perumal* temple at Kothangulam, an adjacent village.

**Kollankudi** (Sivaganga Taluk—Population : 2,070) lies eight miles east of Sivaganga on the road from Madurai to Tondi. From Madurai it is 38 miles eastwards and buses are plying to this place. The nearest Railway Station is Sivaganga.

The name is derived from *kollan* in Tamil meaning blacksmith and *kudi* meaning village. It was the place where arms and ammunition were made for the campaigns of Marudhu during his stewardship of Sivaganga Kingdom.

The village is now famous for the *Vettudaya Kalliamman* temple, a mile from the village. The *Kali* deity is said to have been established about 500 years ago by two brothers known as *Kari Velar* and *Karuppa Velar* who were well-versed in *mantras*. The deity is held in great respect by the people. The *Vettudaya Ayyanar* is another popular deity here. The legend has it that *Ayyanar* deity was imbedded in the earth. The original founder while digging the earth came across it. His spade cut a mark on the idol and hence it was known as *Vettudaya Ayyanar*. The annual income of the temple is about rupees twenty-five to thirty thousands. *Kumbabishekam* was performed on 16th June 1940. *Brahmotsavam* or annual festival is held for 10 days in the month of *Panguni*. It is a notified festival.

The ruins of the old palace of Muthuvaduganathar, the King of Sivaganga, is found here. Fighting between the forces of East India Company and the ruler of Sivaganga took place here in May 1789. Marudhu constructed a reservoir in this village and is still called *Marudhu Urani*. It is said that one Harijan was supplying drinking water to the carriers of brick who were transporting brick from Manamadurai to Kalaiyarkoil for the construction of the temple tower at Kalaiyarkoil. Marudhu who became aware of this, constructed a drinking water reservoir at the spot and gifted lands to the Harijan for his charitable act. There is a Panchayat Office at this place.

**Kothandaramar Koil** (Ramanathapuram Taluk) is situated on the sea shore in Rameswaram Island, 5 miles south-east of Rameswaram. It is two furlongs west of Pamban-Dhanushkodi Railway line. The place has to be reached by walking as the train does not stop at this place.

The place owes its name to the *Kothandaramar* temple. The temple is built on a sandy mound. It is dedicated to Lord *Rama* and is beautifully built up. It enshrines *Rama*, *Seetha*, *Lakshmana*, *Hanuman* and *Vibishna*. *Vibishna* is said to have surrendered to *Rama* at this place.

**Kottaiyur** (Sattur Taluk—Population : 996) is situated 41 miles south of Madurai, 12 miles north-east of Sattur and 14 miles south-west of Virudhunagar. It lies on the bus route from Madurai to Chockalingapuram. The nearest railway station is Thulukkappatty, 5 miles west of the village.

Kottaiyur means fort village. Its name is derived from an old fort of Nayakars which existed in this place, traces of which may still be seen.

This place is famous for the Saint Gurunathasamy whose *samadi* and house, now remodelled in the style of a temple in which he performed *pooja*, are kept in great reverence. The *samadhi* is believed to have miraculous powers. He lived in this village about 150 years ago.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. The place has a branch Post Office, a Panchayat, and a Co-operative Society. Two sheds have been provided for the convenience of the pilgrims.

**Kottaiyur** (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population : 5,778) lies 17 miles north-east of Tiruppattur and four miles north of Karaikkudi. There is town bus service between Karaikkudi and Kottaiyur. Besides, a number of buses are plying through this town to Tiruchirapalli and other parts. It has a railway station on the Madras-Dhanushkodi line.

It was called Kottaiyur as there was a fort here. It is from 'Kottai' in Tamil meaning fort and 'Ur' in Tamil meaning village.

It has a *Nagaratar Sivan Koil* dedicated to *Chockkanathar* and *Meenakshi*. The construction of this temple was started in 1920 and completed in 1940 when the *Mahakumbabishekam* was performed. Though devoid of architectural splendour, the temple is well constructed out of stones with a *gopuram*.

It is one of the important places of Nattukottai Chettiyars. Many wealthy Chettiyars have renovated temples in Tamil Nadu and constructed *chatrams*. Due to the reduction of their business in Burma, Malaya and Ceylon they have become industrialists investing in industries in Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Madras, Kerala State and other parts of India.

Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiyar, M.A., D.Litt., LL.D., Bar-at-Law (1909-1958), the great educationalist, industrialist and a philanthropic gentleman hails from this place. He was born in April 1909. He passed M.A. in 1930 from the Presidency College, Madras at the age of 21. He was called to the Bar, Middle Temple in 1933. He was the first Indian trainee in the Chartered Bank, London (1931-33). He was awarded pilot certificate in Croydon, London. Doctorate (D. Litt.) title was conferred on him by the Annamalai University in 1943. The Madras University conferred (LL.D.) Doctorate title in 1944. He was the President, Hindustan Scouts (now Bharat

Scouts and Guides). He represented India at the conference of Institute of Pacific Relations, Tokyo, Japan in 1954. He was the President of South Indian Chamber of Commerce, in 1945 and 1946. He made princely donations for the cause of education and number of institutions profitted by his philanthropy.

He was the founder of the Arts College, Karaikkudi; Dr. Alagappa Chettiyar Training College, Karaikkudi (1950), Alagappa Chettiyar College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikkudi (1952), Montessori school, Karaikkudi (1953) and Alagappa College of Women, Karaikkudi (1954). Besides, he has started the Ramanujam Institute of Mathematics, Madras (1948), Model High School attached to Dr. Alagappa Chettiyar Training College, Karaikkudi, Sri M.C.T.M. Chidambaram Chettiyar Memorial Preparatory School, Madras (1954), Alagappa Elementary School, Karaikkudi (1954), Alagappa Basic School, Karaikkudi and Alagappa Preparatory School, Karaikkudi (1955) and Alagappa Polytechnic, Karaikkudi (1955). He has constructed Bhavanagar Stadium, Karaikkudi (1949), Umayal Visalakshi Hostels, Karaikkudi Veerappa Amman Hostel, Karaikkudi (1953), Monkomp Aundy Iyer Hostel, Karaikkudi (1953) and G. Kuppusamy Naidu Hostel, Karaikkudi (1955).

Kottaiyur is a Town Panchayat with a Panchayat Office, a Post and Telegraph Office with telephone facilities, a Board High School and a private hospital for the public.

A weekly shandy is held on Monday wherein vegetables, mud-pots, fish and straw are sold.

*Koviloor* (Tiruppattur Taluk-Population: 1,629) lies  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Karaikkudi on the Madurai-Devakottai Road. It is 11 miles east of Tiruppattur. Karaikkudi Railway Junction is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles from this place. Regular buses are plying to this village.

It was named as Kovilur because of the beautiful temple in the village.

A pious king, Veerapandyan, a devotee of *Kalleeswara*, who vouchsafed to him a sword by means of which the king was enabled to conquer his rivals, came to this place, which was then a dense forest, chasing a deer. After a tiresome day he slept under a *Vanni* tree. On waking up he found his sword missing. After a search it was found in a bush by the side of a *Linga*. He raised a temple at the spot. The *siva* is therefore known as *Kotravaleeswarar* alias *Rajakatagaparameswarar*. *Tirunellai Ambal* alias *Salivateswari* is the name of the Goddess. The *mandapams*, *gopurams*, lesser shrines, and the sacred tank opposite the eastern entrance were completed about 58 years ago. The renovation work was started by Andawar Muthuramalinga Gnana Desigar, a saint of *Koviloor Madam*. It was completed by Veerappa Gnana Desigar, the 5th *Madathipathi* of *Koviloor Madam*. Passing through the



entrance to the *Amman Sannadhi* visitors enter a *mandapam* where pillars with excellent motifs of Lord *Ganesa*, Lord *Subramanya*, *Meenakshi Kalyanam*, *Meenakshi Thikvijayam*, *Saradambal*, *Markandeyar*, *Mangalanather*, *Veerabadrar*, *Urthuvathandavam*, *Rishabharrudar*, *Veerasekarapandian* and *Muthu Gnana Desigar* are found. All these are cut out of single blocks of stones. The *Amman* shrine, *Somaskandar* shrine and a porch in the middle of the tank are made of polished black granite. Annual festival is held during *Adi Pooram* for eleven days. The temple belongs to the *Sivaganga Devasthanam*.

*Koviloor Madam* is an important religious institution of this place. It has branches in *Chidambaram*, *Porulvaithaseri* near *Sikkal* (*Thanjavur District*), *Tirukalar* and *Tiruvannamalai*. *Andawar Muthuramalingam Gnana Desigar*, who was a great saint, founded it. His parents were *Meyyappa Chettiar* and *Valliammal*, *Nattukottai Chettiars* of *Karaikkudi*. He had visions of God often. The Goddess of *Koviloor* used to appear before him in the form of a brahmin girl. He passed away in the year 1846 A.D. During his time he was responsible for the construction of many temples in *Chettinad*. Only *sanyasis* of the *Nattukottai Chettiar* community can become the head of this *mutt*. This *mutt* used to impart education in *Vedas* and *Tamil* literature. *Swami Chadasambavanar*, *Pandit Narayanasamiar* and *Kasikanandaswami* are some of the prominent persons who studied here.

There is a Post Office, a Panchayat Office and a *Devasthanam* Office at this place.

*Kunnakkudi* (*Tiruppattur Taluk*—Population : 2,524) is 7 miles east of *Tiruppattur* and 7 miles west of *Karaikkudi* railway station. This is accessible by bus.

As the village is situated around the hillock, it is known as *Kundrakudy* or *Kunnakkudy*. *Kundram* in *Tamil* means hillock and *Kudy* is village meaning hillock village. This place is known by other names also, viz., *Mayuranagaram*, *Arasavanam*, *Krishna Nagaram* and *Mayilmalai*. This is called *Mayura Nagaram* because the peacock, the celestial vehicle of Lord *Subramanya* did penance here and obtained its wishes. *Mayuram* in *Sanskrit* means peacock. It was called *Arasavanam* as there were forests of *Arasa* trees. Since *Krishna* asked *Pandavas* to worship Lord *Subramanya* here it was known as *Krishna Nagaram*. *Mayilmalai*, as its name indicates, is due to the fact that the hill is in the shape of a peacock.

This place is famous only for temples. They are in two portions. One is on the top of the hillock and the other is at the foot of it. The temple at the top enshrines Lord *Subramanya* with six faces facing east on his celestial vehicle peacock. *Valli* and *Daivanai* are on his sides. This is the celebrated shrine of this place. It is exceedingly beautiful, graceful and attractive. At the entrance to the temple there is *Thogaiyadi Vinayagar*. He is so called because the entrance to the temple is at the tail portion of the peacock called *Thogai* in

Tamil and this *Vinayagar* is at this spot. At the foot of the south western side of the hillock there is a rock-cut temple. The shrines of the rock-cut temple are graceful, the *Lingam* is huge and marvelously cut out of the solid rock. The *Lingam* is said to have been installed by sage *Agastya*. The chambers cut out of the solid rock are well proportioned. The face of the walls outside contains sculptures of *Siva* in dancing pose, *Harihara*, and *Durga*. There are also the shrines of *Thenattrunathar* and Goddess. *Azhagammal*. All these are exceedingly fine examples of this class of work.

According to the *Sthalapurana*, *Suran* wanted to wreak vengeance on Lord *Vishnu* and *Brahma*. With this motive he informed the peacock that *garuda* and swan, the celestial vehicles of Lord *Vishnu* and *Brahma*, talked ill of peacock that it could not fly fast. Enraged at this, the peacock swallowed the *garuda* and swan. Finding their vehicles missing, *Vishnu* and *Brahma* complained to Lord *Subramanya* who ordered the peacock to eject from its stomach the vehicles of *Vishnu* and *Brahma* and cursed the peacock to become a hillock for causing annoyance to *Vishnu* and *Brahma*. *Suran* was cursed to be born as an *Asura* for tale-bearing. The peacock after doing penance obtained its original form retaining the hillock in peacock's shape in testimony of this event. Legend has it that *Agasthiar*, *Viswamithrar*, *Brahma*, *Garudan*, *Indra*, *Surya*, *Munmatha*, *Pandavar*, *Naradhar* and *Idumban* worshipped Lord *Subramanya* here.

The temple was renovated and repaired by *Sethupathis* long ago. The present hereditary trustee, with the united efforts of *Nattukkottai Chettiar* of *Kandramanickam*, repaired the temple and performed *kumbabishekam*. Stone inscriptions are found in the temple at the foot of the hill. They relate to the period of *Jatavarma Sri Vallabha* (about 1014 A.D.), one of the descendants of early *Pandyas*. Saint *Arunagiri* had visited this place and sung in praise of the Lord in his *Thirupugal*.

The *Pandavas* of *Mahabaratha* are said to have worshipped here and the *Pandava Theertham* on the western side of the hill speaks to it. The tank *Marudhapuri* was sunk by *Marudhu* brothers (1780-1801).

This place attracts large number of pilgrims throughout the year. The chief festivals are (1) *Visakam* in May (2) *Kiruthigai* in July (3) *Skanda Shashti* in November (4) *Poosam* in February and (5) *Uttiram* in April. As in *Palani*, *kavadi* is carried on festival occasions.

This is one of the five temples of *Anjukoil Devasthanam* to which *Thiruvannamalai Atheenam* is the hereditary Trustee. *Nattukkottai Chettiars* have built *Chatrams* here.

There are a Police Station, a sub-Post-Office, a high school and a non-Basic Teachers' Training School for women with hostel facilities and a Panchayat Office. Kunnakkudi is electrified.

*Kurusadi Island Biological Station.*—This place is noted for the Biological Station. In 1913-1914 Mr. Hornell, the Marine Biologist, in the Department of Fisheries, Madras, drew up a scheme for the establishment of a Pearl Oyster Farm and a subsidiary Marine Biological Station in the island of Kurusadi. But as the island then belonged to the Rajah of Ramanathapuram it had to be acquired for locating the Biological Station. The proposals were accepted and sanction was accorded for acquiring the island in January 1915. Then the island was acquired from the Rajah of Ramanathapuram by payment of a compensation of Rs. 4,882. At that time the total acreage of the island was 107.7 acres and there were about a thousand cocoanut trees.

In 1923, the Madras Government wanted to sell the island. But in 1924 Indian Science Congress at Bangalore passed a resolution for the establishment of Kurusadi Marine Biological Station to meet the needs of the Universities of Madras, Mysore, Travancore, Bengal and Benares and recommended the retention of the island. A Committee was formed headed by Dr. Sundar Raj, the former Director of Fisheries, and the Committee collected biological data. A report was prepared about the fauna and flora of the island.

A Research Assistant was appointed in 1928 and the following programme of works were allotted to him. Studies in the habits, food environment, spawning and early stages of Pearl Oysters and culture work. In the later years, the programme of works was increased with increased staff and other equipments. The chief food of the chank, the seasonal imigration, age and rate of growth of chanks, meteorological and hydrographical data ; collection and identification of Pamban fishes ; Marine Fish Farming for Chanos fish ; study of the pearl oyster cages, statistical study of Inshore Fishing Station at Rameswaram, population study of sea weeds, preparation of Marruses from sea-weeds, preparation of 'Agar agar' from sea-weeds, are some of the important programmes of work tackled in this station from 1928 to the present.

The Kurusadi Island lies off the land of Rameswaram in the Gulf of Manar in latitude 9° 14' N and longitude 79° 13' E. A fringing coral-reel begins with the Rameswaram island at the head of the Gulf of Manar and runs along the coast southward at a distance of a few miles from the mainland as far down as Tuticorin and beyond. The chief coral islands in this reef form a string stretching likewise from north to south, viz., Shingle, Kurusadi, Pullivasal, Pulli, Mannali, Musel (Hare), Talairi Island, Shermudali Theevu, Nallathanni Theevu, Kareswar Island, Pandyan Theevu, etc. This fringing reef is called for the sake of convenience, as "The Pamban-Tuticorin Reef".

The region where the Kurusadi Island is situated is at the head of the Gulf of Manar. Here the water of the Gulf of Manar and the Palk Bay mix through the Palk Strait and the Pamban Pass. Here again southerly currents of low salinity enters the Gulf during the north-east monsoon period. Hydrographical observations made, therefore, by the Kurusadi Biological Station are doubtless of peculiar interest and inherent importance.

The well known Rameswaram Island is connected with the mainland by a bridge known as Pamban Bridge connecting the village Mantapam on the mainland and the hamlet of Pamban on the other side. A walk of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in the southerly direction from Pamban leads to an abutting point of Rameswaram Island which is known as Kundugal point (Kuttikkal point by earlier works). The local people have a general faith about this place that it is from here that *Hanuman* of Ramayana jumped to Lanka (Ceylon). From this *Kundugal* (குண்டுகல்) point, the Kurusadi Island is separated by a channel of about 250 metres in breadth. The pass of channel between Kurusadi and Kundugal point is popularly known as Kundugal channel. Its maximum depth is 20 feet with sandy bottom. The third oyster park of the station was first established in this Kundugal channel and it is being continued. In this channel water changes often during the day. On account of the changes in water current and in hydrographical condition, the appearance of myco organism and other animals varies. This channel is selected as suitable place for pearl oyster cultivation and the same is continued from 1929.

Every year a number of student parties sponsored by colleges visit the island. Usually they are biologists. They come and stay two or three days and study the biological organisms in the living condition in the natural environment. For their stay, two rest houses and a kitchen are provided. A motor launch is available at this station for hire for the convenience of students who visit the Island.

The Research Programme of work allotted for the year 1964-65 are as follows :—

1. Cultivation of sea-weeds in the Marine Fish Farm.
2. Meteorology and hydrology of Kundugal channel.
3. Pearl oyster farming in Kundugal channel.
4. Transplantation of pearl oysters at Calaxea reef from Tuticorin.
5. Chank marking experiments at Ramanathapuram Coast.
6. Study of the bionanics of the fish captured at the inshore fishing station, Rameswaram.

*Adam's Bridge.*—The name "Adam's Bridge" is derived from the Muhammadan tradition that Adam on his expulsion from the aradise, crossed to Ceylon by this bridge. In Tamil it is called

**Tiruanai** meaning Holy Bund. Its Sanskrit name is *Nalasethu* meaning *Nala* the monkey, *Sethu* the causway or bund. It is also called *Ramasethu* meaning *Rama's* Bund. There is also another name, *Adisethu* meaning first bridge. It is situated at a distance of 110 miles in the east-south-east direction from Madurai and from Ramanathapuram it is 43 miles in the same direction. From Rameswaram it is  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the east. It is a bridge of sand and rock mostly dry, nearly closing the Gulf of Manar on the north and north-east. Its western extremity joins the eastern point of Rameswaram Island and eastern extremity joins the eastern point of Manar Island. With these 2 islands, it almost connects Ceylon with the Peninsula. It is also called the bridge of Rama as *Rama* aided by *Hanuman* with his host of monkeys marched along it when invading Ceylon. This bridge connected Ceylon and India until 1480, when a breach was made in it by a ferocious storm. A subsequent storm enlarged this breach and foot traffic then ceased. Its length is about 30 miles and breadth is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It lies in the direction of south-east to north-west. This sand ridge is partly above and partly below water; but when covered it has about 3 or 4 feet of water. It is mostly composed of shifting sand banks with intricate channels between them. During south-west monsoon a strong current sets northward over Adam's bridge; a confused sea, which weakens to the westward as the Indian coast is approached. There is a proposal to cut a Channel across Adam's Bridge to connect the Gulf of Manar with the Palk Bay in order to shorten and improve the sea route between the west and the east coasts of India.

**Mahibalanpatty** (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 1,976) lie 6 miles north-west of Tiruppattur and 18 miles west of Karaikkudi. Karaikkudi is the nearest railway station. This place is connected to Tiruppattur by a bus service.

A king by name *Mahibalan* was said to be ruling over this area and the village came to be named after this legendary king. The original name of the place is said to be Poongunram. The name was changed into Mahibalanpatty during the period of the Chola kings.

This place was the capital of Poongunra Nadu, comprising 24½ villages, one of the divisions in Pandya kingdom. There is a tiny hillock in which a rock-cut *Siva* temple of the Pallava period exists with stone inscriptions. The big *Lingam* is also a part of the rock-cut temple. By the side of it a *Valampuri Vinayagar* is cut on the rock, a little north to the rock-cut temple.

There are a number of temples in the village; *Poongun—Nayakiamman* temple, *Vinayagar* temple, *Mangala Vinayagar* temple, *Sithivinayagar* temple, etc.

This is the birth place of the poet Kanian Poongundranar who sang the oft quoted song “யாது முரே யாவரும் கேளிர்” in the *Purananooru*. Mahamahobadya Pandithamani M. Kadirasan Chettiar (1881-1953) who was a greater servant of Tamil literature, also hails from this place.

This place has a Panchayat Office, a Branch Post Office and a Maternity Centre.

*Manamadurai* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 10,574) is 28 miles east of Madurai, 11 miles south of Sivaganga and 40 miles west of Ramanathapuram. It is a railway junction on the Dhanushkodi-Madras railway line and is easily accessible by bus and car on a good motorable road.

The *Sthalapuranam* relates that this place was known by the name Chandra Patnam in *Krithayuga*, in *Threthayugam* it bore the name of Esanya Madurai meaning East Madurai; in *Dwaparayuga* as Sthoolakarnapuri meaning big beautiful town and in the present *Kaliyuga* as Vilvavanam meaning forest of *vilva* trees.

The origin of the name Manamadurai is associated with the great epic *Ramayana*. In the course of *Rama's* expedition to Lanka, *Hanuman* halted at this place with his monkey allies on his way to Lanka. It is said that *Hanuman* was crowned here worshipped the God before leaving for Lanka. In confirmation of this, *Hanuman* has taken his place in the *Perumal* temple. A crown is seen on his head which is a rare feature. This place was known as Vanara Veera Madurai after this incident and Manamadurai is a corruption of this name.

There is another version. The Tamil word “மா” (*Ma*) means greatness and “na” in Tamil is negative suffix, meaning little Madurai. During Chanda Sahib's occupation of Madurai Kingdom, the idols from the *Meenakshi* temple were removed by its trustees to Manamadurai and there they remained for two years, the expenses of the maintenance of their customary worship being met by the Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram. After the capture of Chanda Sahib, Murari Rao seems to have recalled the idols back to Madurai and restored them to *Meenakshi* temple. Under this circumstance the place was known as little Madurai.

Sethupathis of Ramanathapuram had an important fort at Manamadurai on the high ground called Kalkottaimedu. All the traces of it have now disappeared. Chockkanatha Nayak (1659-1682) of Madurai Kingdom captured this fort when he marched against Tirumalai Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram because the Sethupathi refused to come to the aid of Chockkanatha Nayak against “Vanamian”, a Bijapur General, when he laid siege to Madurai.

There are three temples in this town. The *Somanathas* my temple, the biggest of the three, has a 50 feet *gopuram* and enshrines the *Somanathar* and *Anandavalli*. According to the inscriptions found in the temple the temple was the creation of God *Chandra* (Moon) in order to get purified from the curse of *Thakkan*. The inscription records that the temple was renovated and repaired by Emperor *Mahabali*. The *gopuram* owes its existence to Marudhu brothers (1783–1801). It was designed to be  $\frac{1}{5}$ th of the height of the *Kalayarkoil gopuram* which was also constructed by them. With the united efforts of the people and a *Nattukkottai Chettiyar* of *Okkur*, the *Nandimandapam* and the *Kalyanamandapam* were added to the temple in the year 1900 A.D. The temple is 211 feet long, north to south and 189 feet east to west. The temple has two entrances. The special feature of this temple is that the *Lingam* is of white marble. The *Swayambu Lingam* is one foot height and  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot in diameter. There are two wooden cars for this temple. The bigger of the two measures 19 feet high. The smaller one measures 17 feet on all sides. *Chitirai* festival is the most important one.

*Veera Alagar Koil* is situated on the eastern bank of the *Vaigai* river. The *Sthalapuramam* relates that one *Mavalivana Rajan* who was the chieftain was visiting the temple at *Alagar Koil* every day on horse-back. Once owing to relentless rain he was unable to go there and when he was in sheer despair he had a vision that he should construct a *Vishnu* temple at this place and worship. Obeying this direction he built this temple. The *Moolavar Sundarareja Perumal* is 6 feet high and the *Ubaya Nachiar Sundaravalli* is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. *Hanumar* is installed separately near the entrance of the temple. Here *Hanumar* is 8 feet high and is graceful, majestic and attractive with a crown on his head which is a special feature. As in the case of *Kallalagar* temple in *Alagar Koil* the wooden doors of the *gopuram* have been closed and on the side of it *Karuppannaswami* of eighteen steps is installed. The gate is held in special veneration. This temple is a replica of the *Alagar Koil* and so all the festivals of that temple are celebrated here. There are stone inscriptions in this temple also.

*Appan Perumal* temple is the smallest of the three. It is on the eastern bank of the *Vaigai*. The *Moolavar* is 5 feet high. No festivals are held in this temple.

The *Sthalapuramam* of this place has it that *Sthoola Karna Maharaja* obtained salvation at this place. *Balaramar*, *Rama*, *Hanumar* and his allies, *Ugrapandian*, *Arimarthana Pandyan* are said to have worshipped at this place. Saint *Manickavasagar* is also said to have visited this place. *Vempathur Kaviraja Pandithar* has sung 108 poems in praise of this place.

There are two churches and one mosque in his place.

The river *Vaigai* is running north-west to south-east here and the town is divided into two portions. Raja Rajeswara Sethupathi bridge opened on 28 June, 1927 by Viscount Goschen, Governor of Madras, connects the two portions. This place is famous for the manufacture of pottery, bell metal, tiles, bricks and ceramic wares. The clay of this area is most suitable for making pottery, tiles and bricks because of its colour, plasticity and strength. The earth found in Manamadurai gives a better glaze to the red pottery made there and makes it distinctly superior. The potters of this place not only meet the local demand but also export their pottery to Madurai and other places outside the District. Water jugs are a speciality of this place and they are manufactured with taps in various attractive designs. The tiles manufactured here are classified as "A" standard by the Indian Standards Institute specification. The breaking strength of one tile of 6 lbs. is 300 lbs. against the Indian Standards Institute specification of about 220 lbs. There are two major pottery industries, three tile and brick factories. Besides, there are other factories, viz., connected with the manufacture of furniture, palm leaf articles, brass wares and cement hume pipes.

Manamadurai is a sub-taluk in Sivaganga revenue taluk with the headquarters of an Independent Deputy Tahsildar. It is also the headquarters of a Panchayat Union of its name. The town is electrified. There are a District Munsif's Court, a Post and Telegraph Office with telephone facilities, a Sub-Registrar's Office, an Inspector of Labour's Office, a Police Station, a Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Deputy Inspector of School's Office, a Sub-Treasury Officer's Office, an Assistant Engineer's Office for food production, maintenance schemes and *Vaigai* canal, a Supervisor's Office (Highways), a Panchayat Union Hospital and a Police Circle Inspector's Office. There is a Board High School for girls, a high school for boys and a school for deaf and dumb. The railway junction is situated on the western bank of the river *Vaigai* while the Manamadurai East Railway Station is situated on the opposite bank. The Aruppukkottai-Manamadurai line was opened on 31st March 1964. The railway has a separate hospital of its own. There is a Leper Asylum on the Sivaganga Road.

There is a well furnished and electrified travellers bungalow with four suites in it. The Sivaganga *Samasthanam Chatram* does not provide lodgings, but rice ration is given to pilgrims. Weekly market is held on Thursdays.

**Mantapam** (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 6,257) a peninsula and a port, is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union and is situated 24 miles east south—east of Ramanathapuram. It is the land route terminus and buses are plying. It can be reached by boats. There are two railway stations called Mantapam Camp and Mantapam.



*Mandapam* means hall. The village is named after a stone *mandapam* built on the southern coast to which, in former days, *Ramanathaswamy* from Rameswaram was brought and taken back annually. Sethupathis also used to halt here and conduct courts.

This place is important being the gateway to the mainland. There is a Quarantine Camp of the Ceylon Government in India located at Mantapam Camp. There is a Port Health Officer in the Quarantine Camp. He does the medical check up of the Indo-Ceylon passengers at Dhanushkodi.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple in ruins. The idols have been removed. At the peninsular point near the western end of the Pamban bridge there is a *Pillaiyar* temple maintained by the Ramanathapuram *Devasthanam*. There are two churches and one mosque. In the Mantapam Camp there is a *Pillaiyar-cum-Siva* temple in which *Mariamman* idol also is seen. The staff of the Ceylon Government have installed a small *Buddha* idol and a *Perumal* idol under a tree and they are worshipped.

It is a fishing centre, including chank fishing. The predominant community is Muslims. When the north sea (Palk Strait) is rough due to monsoon, the south sea (Gulf of Manar) is calm. Hence there is fishing throughout the year. With Norwegian collaboration fishing methods are taught to Indians. Fish is transported to Madras and other parts.

Silverbellies which is a non-edible variety form the bulk of catches of the coastal districts. This fish is mainly salted and sun-dried and sold in the interior parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This fish is also used in the manufacture of fish-meal, an important cattle and poultry feed.

Since there is a great demand for fish-meal throughout the country the Department of Fisheries with the assistance of the Indo-Norwegian Project have established a fish-meal plant with a capacity of 50 tonnes of raw material a day and a production capacity of 5 tonnes of fish-meal per day at Mantapam. This plant has been equipped with all the modern machinery imported from Norway and erected under the guidance of the Norwegian Engineers.

With the introduction of the mechanised boats, the fishermen of this coast especially around Mantapam and Rameswaram Island have taken up trawling to catch the valuable prawns which earn a good foreign exchange for the country.

Department of Fisheries, Tamil Nadu have taken up a programme to develop large scale fishing operation with the help of purse seine nets. During 1971 a record catch of 50 tonnes of catfish by this net in a single haul off the coast of Mantapam was made.

Indo-Norwegian Project, Mantapam has been established in 1961 to promote and intensify fishery development in Ramanathapuram area. The project consists of Boat Building Yard, with a capacity of 30 boats annually. So far, 148 and 2 mechanised boats of 32' and 43.5' respectively were constructed from this yard and all the boats except 44 were distributed to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu district on hire-cum-subsidy basis. A Fisheries Training Centre is functioning at Mantapam under this project. A freezing plant with a freezing capacity of 10 tonnes frozen cold storage of 50 tonnes, chilled cold storage of 50 tonnes, ice storage of 60 tonnes and ice plant with a capacity to produce 15 tonnes of ice have been erected and functioning under this project.

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute of the Government of India is located here. The Director of the Institute is the chief of the Off-shore Fishing Department of the Government of India. To facilitate research work a museum and an aquarium are maintained by the Institute. A striking feature of the aquarium is the possession of a pair of live Dugongs or sea cows, a second of the kind in the whole world.

Manufacture of plam leaf articles is the next chief occupation for the people.

Mantapam is a small port. Number of ocean-going wooden vessels including motor launches are owned by the local people. They ply between Cochin, Mantapam and Jaffna taking cargo, like tiles, coral stones, etc. Coral stones are secured from the nearby islands off Mantapam coast and they are transported to cement factories.

Situated at the end of the peninsular portion of India it has been made an important railway centre and also headquarters of the Marine Superintendent. There is a railway colony extending to about 400 acres of land acquired in 1947. There is a dry dock-yard for repairing steamers and vessels.

The following offices are located at Mantapam—a Panchayat Union Office, a Marine Superintendent's Office, a Port Health Office, Office of the Inspector of Customs, Office of the Protector of Emigrants, an Assistant Engineer's Office for Sethu Samudram Project, Office of the Inspector of Fisheries, an Administrative Office of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, the Indo-American Oceanic Fisheries Research Institute, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office and Panchayat Office.

There are also two Post Offices with telegram and telephone facilities, a Telephone Exchange, an Electric Sub-station, a Police Station, a Board High School, a Railway Hospital, a Panchayat Union Hospital and Carpentry Unit run by the Panchayat Union in this place.

Rest house with 8 rooms of which two are double rooms are run by Central Marine Fisheries Department. Here western style food is also available. Of the six single rooms, three are generally reserved for foreigners. Besides, there are two Railway travellers' bungalows.

*Mariyur* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 3,632) is a sea coast village on the Gulf of Manar lying 11 miles south-east of Kadaladi and 20 miles south of Mudukulattur. The place can be reached either by a jeep or by a bullock cart. Motorable road exists for about 9 miles from Kadaladi, the rest is very sandy.

The name of the village is from 'mari' in Tamil meaning rain and 'ur' in Tamil meaning village. The legend has it that owing to a curse of a maiden, sand storm raged over the village and the temple was completely embedded in sand. Thence forward, it came to be known as *Mariyur*.

It has one of the oldest temples with numerous stone inscriptions enshrining *Poovendinathasamy* (*Siva*) and *Pavalaniravalliamman*. There is an unfinished *Rajagopuram* (King Tower) at the entrance of the outer wall similar to the one in other places suggesting Tirumalai Nayak's undertakings (1623-1659). The temple is said to have been founded by one *Durmagentha Maharishi* and *Varuna Bagavan* the (God of Ocean). The *rishi* was worshipping the God in the temple. A maiden polluted the place unawares. The *rishi* cursed her to become barren. The maiden in turn cursed that the temple in which the *rishi* worshipped should be imbedded in sand by a sand storm. Accordingly she became barren and the temple also was imbedded in sand. Thumbachi Nayakar, who was a powerful *Palayakar* during Krishnappa Nayaka's (1564-1572) reign who happened to come here on a hunting expedition accidentally discovered the summit of the temple building. He caused the sand to be removed and brought to view the temple. When he entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple he found fresh flowers on the *Lingam* as if *pooja* had been performed just then. On this account the God was known as *Poovendinathar*.

Trade in sweet toddy, and palm jaggery is carried on here. Groves of palm trees are seen everywhere. There is a Palm Jaggery Co-operative Society. Pottery is also made and a Co-operative Pottery Society is functioning. From private salt pans, salt is manufactured on a large scale. Fishing is also predominant here.

Once this place was well known for magicians. Even now palm leaf records about magic are available in this village.

The village contains large area of sandy soil and a number of *odai* trees and palmyrah trees. There is a swamp area on the northern side of the village. In the *odai* forest rabbits abound.

It has a branch Post Office and a Panchayat Office.

**Mathur** (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 1949) lies four miles east of Karaikkudi, connected by a metal road. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi junction on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line.

The origin of the name is traced to a legend which has it that *Kongana Maharishi*, one of the eighteen *sidhars*, converted copper into gold and tested its fineness here. *Mathu* in Tamil means fineness and *mattur* means *mattu* village. This place acquired this name on account of the *sidhars* test.

This place is important on account of the existence of one of the nine temples of Nattukottai Chettiyars. It is said to have been granted free to Nattukottai Chettiyars by Kun Pandyan. It is dedicated to *Inoothy Eswarar* (Siva) and *Perianayaki*. It is one of the elaborately sculptured temples. The *prakaram*, outside *mantapam* and the *Kalyana Mantapam* alone were constructed at a cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs. *Kumbabishekam* was performed on 2nd February 1949. A beautiful reservoir has been constructed with stone steps adjacent to the temple. There is a *Muneeswaran* under an acacia tree inside the temple. This *Muneeswaran* is held in great reverence and separate and special offerings are made. Some years ago even *kavadi* was carried in honour of this deity.

This place has a Panchayat Office and a Maternity Centre.

**Melkodumalur** (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 1,817) is situated five miles north east of Abiramam, 3 of the 5 miles lies on the Kamudi-Madurai road and the remaining 2 miles has to be covered by hired carts as buses are not plying to the place though it is a fair weather road. The nearest railway station is Manamadurai which is 17 miles north of this place.

The village owes its importance to an old *Subramanya-swami* temple. The legend says that Lord *Muruga* came to this place in the form of an old Brahmin. The saints of the place were preparing food for this Brahmin. By the time they returned with food, Lord *Muruga* transferred himself into a stone statue under an *odai* tree. It is one of the majestic and inspiring life-size figure. The *odai* tree is also considered very sacred because of its peculiar serpent like growth round the temple. Its seed does not germinate and the leaves are used for medicinal purposes.

Two important festivals, *Panguni Uttram* in April and *Vaikasi Visagam* in June, attract about 5,000 peoples.

Nearly one-third of the population of the village is Muslim who have trade connections with Malaya and Burma.

There is a branch Post-Office in the village.

*Morkkulam* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 516) lies 8 miles south-east of Ramanathapuram which is the nearest railway station on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line. The bus route from Ramanathapuram to Kilakkarai runs about a mile to the east of the village. Kilakkarai is 2 miles south of this place.

The village is named after its irrigation tank called *Morkkulam*. But for the location of the salt factory at this place it is an insignificant village.

The exact date of opening of the salt factory is not known but it has been in existence from the earliest period of the British rule in India. The factory occupying an area of 127.69 acres is about 2 miles from the sea-shore at Sethukarai on the south. It is a small factory running from east to west. The *Kottagudi* river communicating the back water from the sea runs to the north and east of this factory. This was the headquarter factory of the old *Morkkulam* circle prior to the bifurcation of the Salt and Abkari Department on 1st April 1924. The monopoly system was introduced in 1805 and the excise system in 1886. Two monopoly licensees worked in 1904, but now there are no monopoly pans.

Salt is manufactured under the single irrigation system. Brine is let into crystallising beds at from 13° to 20° Beaume. Density of brine varies from 3° to 7° Be. Brine supply is just sufficient to the requirements of the factory. The source of supply is the back water at the mouth of the *Kottagudi* river, which is connected with the supply channel of the factory. The supply of brine is regulated by a sluice which is closed by wooden planks. Brine is baled out from the supply channel by means of sling baskets worked either singly or in pairs by 2 or 4 men. Salt generally forms in regular hard crystals though first crop of crystals is small and ill-formed. Brine in the reservoir is generally 6" deep while that in condenser is only 3½" deep. Condensers, crystallising beds and reservoirs are above the ordinary sea-level and the level of the high tide. The crystallising beds extend to an area of 34.39 acres. Area of the condensers and reservoirs is 16.62 acres. The soil is more clayey than sandy, fairly impervious and easily tamped. Crystallising beds are about 23' × 11'. Bitter pits exist for the reception of the bitters after the fifth scrapping which is carried from the beds to the bitter pits through separate bitters channels along side the irrigation canal on a lower level than the beds.

The maximum outturn on record is 173,208 maunds in 1918-1919 and the average outturn is 40,000 maunds a year. The salt produced in this factory is taken to the markets at Ramanathapuram and Paramagudi and the sale is confined to Ramanathapuram, Paramagudi and Mudukulattur taluks. There is a rain gauge in the salt factory and the officer-in-charge records the readings and submits reports.

*M. Reddiyapatti* otherwise known as Mantapasalai Reddiyapatti (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population 3,632) is the headquarters of the Panchayat Union, Tiruchuli, lying eleven miles south-east of Aruppukkottai. It is one mile south of the highways from Aruppukkottai to Mudukulattur. Buses frequent on this high road. The nearest railway station is Aruppukkottai on the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai railway line.

This road was once the highway to Mantapam and to Rameswaram. Hence it was called Mantapasalai meaning Mantapam road. A village one mile from Reddiyapatti bears the name Mantapasalai. This Reddiyapatti is distinguished by the prefix *M.* denoting Mantapasalai. Reddiars from Tirumangalam migrated to this place and settled here. Their settlement was called Reddiapatti which means Reddiar's village. The village goes by that name still.

It has a *Vishnu* temple and the village deities like *Kaliamman*, *Mariamman*, *Karuppasamy* and *Ayyanar* have separate temples. No festivals are held in any of these temples.

There are about 30 handlooms, and sarees in art-silk and cotton are produced. About 50 families find their living through hand spinning and umber charka. There is a Wardha (Single Bullock) Oil Pressure. This village is noted for making bullock carts. Agriculture is the predominant occupation. Cotton, blackgram, chillies and other dry crops are the main agricultural crops grown here.

It has a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a branch Post-Office, a Soil Conservation Supervisor's Office, a National Malaria Eradication Programme Sub-Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Siddha dispensary, an Agricultural Bank with a godown, a Local Library, a *Madhar Sangam* and a high school.

Weekly market is held on Sunday where in about 100 persons assemble. Vegetables, dry fish are generally sold.

*Mudaliar Oothu* (Srivilliputtur Taluk) is situated about four furlongs down the ridge on the northern slope of Srivilliputtur reserve forest having a commanding view of the northern hills of the Sattur Zamin forests and also the twenty plains of Khansapuram, Watrap and Pudupatty. A bus road 9 miles long leads to Pudupatty, north of Srivilliputtur and a path  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles long thereafter runs up the slopes to Mudaliar Oothu. Another path branches off from Shenbagatope, 7 miles from Srivilliputtur, which can be negotiated by a jeep or a bullock cart. From here the same type of road 2 miles long leads to Chokkamparai. Thereafter a foot path, 4 miles long, has to be covered by a fire line up to Virusadi. A bridle path of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long extends to Mudaliar Oothu. This  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles distance winds up a deep wooded cleft in the Western Ghats which is tenanted by wild animals and takes four hours to cover it.

The origin of the name is traced to a Mudaliar who used to halt his cattle here. He found a spring near the present Rest House and hence the name Mudaliar Oothu. Even today cattle are halted in this locality.

There is a Forest Department Rest House constructed in the year 1897 at a cost of Rs. 2,035. Virusadi—Mudaliar Bridle path one mile four furlongs laid in 1897 at a cost of Rs. 500 takes off eastward from this place. Another path called Mudaliar Oothu Chittar bridle path 6 miles 4 furlongs long constructed in the year 1905 at a cost of Rs. 995 also takes off from this place. Around the Rest House is a hill grass area. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of the Rest House is a cliff called "*Peimalai mottai*", the highest peak of about 4,500 feet high. The river *Chittar* runs to the northwest of this place having a scene more impressive. This is a wild spot. Elephants are plentiful. Wild pig, spotted deer, sambar and black naped hare are limited. Barking deer and panthers are seen occasionally. Though not an easy place to approach it is worth a visit for its striking scenery and good game.

*Mudukulattur* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population 5,634) is the headquarters of the taluk of that name and is 16 miles south of Paramagudi, the nearest railway station. From Kamudi it is 12 miles on the east. It is served by motorable roads.

The name is derived from an old tank situated in the centre of the town as the name signifies. *Mudhu* in Tamil means old, *Kulam* means tank and *Ur* means place meaning Old-tank village.

Mudukulattur is known to history as the seat of turbulent Maravars. Ever since Panchalankurichi challenged the authority of the East India Company there were sympathetic risings here. In April 1801 when Kattabomman was at the acme of power, the Taluk Office at Mudukulattur was attacked. The Poligar of Kadaladi sent 300 of his men to Mudukulattur to attack the Company's establishments. In about 1925 a Marava *Sangam* was formed in a very big building erected by it for reclaiming the Marava population. The *Sangam* took pains to enquire into the cause of offences committed by Maravars. This *Sangam* has now become defunct.

The *Subramaniaswami* temple at this place was built by Varaguna Pandyan. This temple was endowed by Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-171 ). There is a big mosque.

There are some wealthy Muslims having their dealings in foreign countries. Agriculture is the main profession here and tanks are the chief irrigation sources.

There are a Deputy Superintendent of Police and a Circle Inspector of Police. It has a Police Station, a Taluk Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Court, a Post and Telegraph Office with a Public call Office, a Food Production Junior Engineer's Office, an Assistant

Engineer's Office (Highways and Rural Works), a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, an Assistant Engineer's Office (P.W.D.), a Government Hospital with a separate lady doctor, and a high school.

There is a traveller's bungalow under the control of the Highways Department.

Weekly market is held on Thursdays when dry fish, vegetables and foodgrains are sold.

This place is famous for Tamil poets. Peria Saravana Kavirayar of this place was an *avathani* poet. He has sung numerous hymns. Pradhani Muthirulappa Pillai was the subject of one of his hymns. His superiority in words building may be seen in the work called "*Panavidu Thoothu*". His son, Arunachala Kavirayar, was also a great poet. His son Siriya Saravanakavirayar was equally great as his grandfather and a renowned *Avathani*. Some of his great works are *Kundrai Sledai Venba*, *Tiruchulialanthathi*, *Maduraiyamagavanthathi*, etc. He was honoured with a palanquin by the Sethupathi.

Nainarkoil (Paramagudi Taluk—Population 2,102) lies 8 miles north-east of Paramagudi and 16 miles north-west of Ramanathapuram. Buses are plying to this place from both Paramagudi and Ramanathapuram. The nearest railway station is Pandikanmoi which is about 6 miles, but there is no road to it.

This place was originally known as Tirumaruthur as it was a forest of *marutha* trees and the *Lingam* was found in the forest. During the Muslim reign, the dumb daughter of Mullah Sahib, a Commandar under the Sultan of Bijapur (about 1659 A.D.) was enabled to speak after she worshipped the *Lingam* here. The first words spoken of by her were said to be Allah Nainar. From that time onwards the place is known as Nainarkoil.

The temple is dedicated to *Sri Naganathar* and *Soundaranayaki*. It is an old and famous temple with inscriptions. Tradition has it that *Adisesha*, the Serpent God, performed *pooja*, hence the Lord is known as *Naganathar* meaning Lord of Serpents. The temple is situated in the centre of the village. The entrance to the temple is from the west. In order to hear the music of *Namedavar*, God is said to be facing west. Within the temple premises, just behind the *Lingam*, God is said to have appeared in the form of a Serpant under a *marutha* tree and gave *dharsan* to the devotees. The place is enclosed by iron bars with a *Lingam* under the remains of the tree. Devotees offer eggs at the spot and carry with them the earth underneath the tree. The earth so taken is dissolved in water and drunk for curing diseases or smeared over the affected portion of the body for removing the pain. In the *mandapam* enshrining



*Soundaranayaki*, there is an underground path leading to an underground small reservoir. This water is also taken by the devotees for curing diseases. Two annual festivals are held in the months of *Vaikasi* and *Adi* for 10 and 15 days respectively when enormous crowd gather. Devotees offer sheep, cattle, cow, vegetables, paddy, foodgrains, pulses, gold and silver ornaments and cash. Even thorns are given as offerings so that thorns may not prick them. There are 17 silver celestial vehicles and two wooden cars. The temple belongs to the Ramanathapuram *Samasthanam*.

To the north-west of this temple and on the bank of the Vasuki reservoir is situated a *Nagar* temple. It is said that a Brahmin couple who were without a child for a long time at last had a son by the grace of Lord *Naganathar*, came to this place for worship. They left the child in a cradle under a tamarind tree on the bank of the reservoir and went for a bath. Soon the child began to Shriek. They found a cobra around the legs of the child. They immediately prayed to Lord *Naganathar* to protect their child. The cobra moved away peacefully. They constructed the *Nagar* temple on the spot in memory of the incident. There is a *Maruthuvana Mahalikoil* to the north of the *Naganatharkoil* wherein 10 days festival is celebrated in the month of *Chitrai*.

The village has a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a Rural Dispensary, a Post-Office, a Devasthanam Office, a Village Key Extension Centre for Animal Husbandry, an Industrial Carpentry Unit, a National Malaria Eradication Programme Office, and a Board High School. The Village has protected water supply and electricity.

The Ramanathapuram *Devasthanam* is maintaining a traveller's bungalow and has constructed two more traveller's bungalows and four quarters for choultries.

*Narikkudi* (Aruppukkottai Taluk— Population 1,038) is 23 miles south of Tiruppuvanam and 18 miles west of Aruppukkottai. They are connected by metal roads and regular buses are plying. The new Virudhunagar-Manamadurai railway line is running close to the village at a distance of about 4 furlongs. It is the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of its name and also the headquarters of the revenue firka.

*Narikkudi* (literal meaning "Place of Jackals") is also known in Sanskrit as *Jambugapuram*. People say that in olden days the place was a jungle infested by jackals and the place derives its name from this fact. Literally *Narikkudi* also means a "tiny hamlet" There is a famous *chatram* at this place. During the reign of Queen Mangammal of Madurai there was *Dwadasikattalai Chatram* at Muthanendal. Half of the village *Athithanendal* and another village called *Manickanendal* and been endowed for the *chatram*

One Seshachala Sastrigal of Narikkudi was the Huckdar of that *chatram*. According to the legend when Maruthupandian Servai, the well-known *Pradhani* of Sivaganga Zamindari came to the Narikkudi forest for hunting he was stranded and he was fed by the inhabitants of Narikudi. For their service he wanted to construct a *chatram* in this village. He therefore, bought the *chatram* and the village from Akilandam Ayyar, the son of the said Seshachala Sastrigal transferred the *chatram* to Narikkudi and endowed the undermentioned villages for it;

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Athithianendal.                   | 6 Nallur.                              |
| 2. Mukkulam.                         | 7. Melapasalai.                        |
| 3. Veerakudi.                        | 8. Nandukachai ( $\frac{1}{2}$ share). |
| 4. Karumanendal.                     | 9. Alangulam ( $\frac{1}{2}$ share).   |
| 5. Athikulam ( $\frac{3}{4}$ share). | 10. Narikkudi (5 shares).              |

and had the *chatram* and the villages granted to Akilandamier the first Huckdar by the Zamindar Muthuvijaya Ragunatha Periya Udaya Thevar in 1785. The *chatram* and the Villages continued to be under the management of the Huckdar till 1864. During the management, the undermentioned villages were bought from the funds of the *chatram* and another *chatram* was also built at Muthanendal in 1837.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Athithianendal ( $\frac{1}{2}$ share). | 3. Dharmum ( $\frac{1}{2}$ share). |
| 2. Athikulam ( $\frac{1}{2}$ share).      | 4. Alangulam (1 share).            |

The Huckdars mismanaged the *chatram*. Consequently in 1864 the *chatram* and the villages were taken under the management of the Revenue Department. The management of the Department lasted till 1871 when the Local Boards Act came into force. In 1873 the *chatram* and the villages were transferred to the District Board, Madurai Circle. The District Board managed them till 1884 while under its management the District Board bought  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the village of Manoor from the savings of the *chatram*. After the Taluk Boards were established in 1884 the *chatram* and the villages were transferred to the Ramanathapuram Taluk Board. The Taluk Board purchased  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the village of Dharmam from the *chatram* funds. After the abolition of the Taluk Board, it was transferred to the Ramanathapuram District Board. It is now under the control of the Collector of Ramanathapuram after the abolition of District Board. Pilgrims to Rameswaram and other travellers are given rations at Narikkudi. Portions of the *chatram* buildings are rented to the Post-Office, Co-operative Stores, Veterinary Hospital Revenue Inspector, etc. There is a statue of Maruthu Pandyan Servai and his wives near the *chatram* and they are worshipped by the local people. Annually one day festival is also conducted by the *chatram* in his honour. There is a stone inscription in *hechatra m.*

Besides the *chatram*, Maruthu Pandian Servai has constructed a drinking water well and an *urani* in the village. An old tamarind tree said to have been planted by him is still green. He also constructed a *Vinayagar* temple called *Annadhana Vinayagar* temple.

Half a mile from the village on the banks of *Gridimal* river and to its west there is an old *Siva* temple called *Virubatchanathaswamy* temple. The *Amman* is called *Nagavalli Ammal*.

There are also three minor temples called *Alagiamman Koil*, *Ayyanarkoil* and *Kuppusamy Koil*.

There are a Post Office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Union Office, a Public Works Department Section Office, a Government Veterinary Hospital, a higher elementary school and a Panchayat Union Rural Dispensary in this village.

*Nattarasankottai* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 4,511) lies on Madurai-Tondi road 6 miles to the north-east of Sivaganga. The Dhanushkodi-Madras railway line passes through this place and there is a railway station. This place is accessible both by bus and train.

*Nattarasankottai* is derived from the word *nattu* meaning country, *arasan* meaning King and *kottai* meaning fort. *Nattukkottai* chettians who emigrated from Caveripattinam to this place, thousands of years ago lived within a fort and hence the name. *Nattukkottai* is said to be a corruption of *Nattarasankottai*.

There are three temples at this place. *Kannudayanayaki* temple stands foremost. *Siva* temple is situated on the southern side of it and a *Vishnu* temple on the eastern side. *Kannudayanayaki* is one of the *Ashta Kalies* (Eight *Kalies* of *Kaleeswari* of *Kalaiyarkoil*). She is ascribed as Goddess of *Sakti*, famous for curing eye diseases. People come here from far and near especially on Tuesdays and Fridays. *Vaikasi* festival in May is unequalled by any in these parts. The silver chariot worth about Rs. 2.5 lakhs is the main attraction during the festival.

*Nattarasankottai* is widely known for the tomb of the famous Tamil poet *Kambar*, the author of *Kamba Ramayanam*. It is said he passed away at this place where a small temple has been erected by a *Nattukkottai* Chettiyar about 35 years ago. Land, tank and *urani* have been named after *Kamban* in this place.

*Nattukkottai* Chettians of this place have been successful businessmen in different countries of the Far East. Their commercial concerns were found in Burma, Malaya and other far eastern countries. Their dealings in foreign countries have considerably dwindled on account of political development there. The temples in this place owe their renovations and constructions to the *Nattukkottai* Chettiyars.

Metal Industry flourishes here and generally household articles are made. The dyeing industry was also carried on here. Few

families make handloom clothes. Artistic and fine varieties of palm leaf baskets are made by Nattukkottai Chettiar women for their own use.

There are a Post Office with Telegraph and Telephones facilities a Panchayat office, a hospital and a high school at this place.

Weekly market is held on every Saturday.

*Nemam* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 846) lies 1 mile 2 furlongs north of Kunnakkudy, 7 miles north-east of Tiruppattur and 7 miles north-west of Karaikkudi. It is on the road leading to Kilasevalpatti from Kunrakkudi. Buses are plying. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi Junction.

*Nemam* is said to be a corruption of *Niyamam* in Tamil meaning discipline, an account of the elder who lived a pure and disciplined life.

Legend has it that a king by name Nemarajan had built a fort close to the village—the place is still called as Kottaimedu and ruled over the place. The fort was so strong that there is still a saying in Tamil “நேமன் கோட்டையேர, ஏமன் கோட்டையேர” in these parts. Later the king is said to have been killed by his brother Soundarapandyan.

There is a well-built *Siva* temple dedicated to *Jayankondacholeeswarar* and *Soundara Nayaki*. It is one of the nine temples belonging to Nattukkottai Chettiars. The Village is said to have been gifted to Nattukkottai Chettiyars by King Soundarapandyan in 1714 A.D. The temple consists of two *prakarams*, with an outer wall and a big *gopuram* on the south. There are a number of sculptured stone pillars in *Neerashipathi Mandapam* and *Aniyarttikal Mandapam*. Eight *Veeratta Moorthies* and their counterparts are all cut out of single blocks of stone with great skill. *Mahakumbabishekam* was performed on 23rd May 1907 and the *Astabandana Kumbabishekam* on 5th February 1961. During the latter *Kumbabishekam*, a fresh idol of the Goddess was installed as the original is said to have been rendered unfit for *pooja*.

The village has a Panchayat office and a *Devasthanam* office.

*Nenmeni* (Sattur Taluk—Population 1,406) six miles east of Sattur is situated on the northern bank of river *Vaipar*. A good motorable road passes through this village and is easily accessible by bus.

*Nenmeni* is a corruption of *Nelmani* meaning paddy yield. Paddy stands foremost in the village. Hence the name.

A Nayak Chieftain appears to have lived in this village. Remnants of old dwellings are still to be seen. A stone inscription on the fourth sluice of the tank records the reign of a King. An old *Siva* temple which existed in that place is in ruins though *poojas* are performed once in a day.

*Venkatachalapathy* temple and *Vinayagar* temple at this place are in good condition.

The Public Works Department irrigation tank is a paradise for the bird-watcher during the winter months when the tank is full attracting many visitors. Many beautiful birds from foreign countries like Australia and America are said come here seasonally. Birds like the paradise Fly-catcher, the Golden Oriole, the small green Barlet, the Red-vented Bul-bul, the King fisher, the Black Cormorant, the Partridge, the Snipe, the Rose-ringed Parakeet and the Blossom-headed Parakeet are some of the important birds seen. During the season thousands of birds nest here. The thick growth of *Sambu* and *Korai* afford good shelter for the birds. The place has been converted into a bird's sanctuary.

The church of Ignatius attracts a large crowd on 31st July of every year when a festival is celebrated. There is also a mosque at this place.

This is a minor Panchayat. The Panchayat office, a Branch Post-Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, an Agricultural Bank with a godown, a National Malaria Eradication Programme Sub-Office, a village *chavadi* and a high school are located at this place.

*Nerkuppai* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 4,320)— a town panchayat, lies 12 miles north-west of Tiruppattur. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi which is 25 miles to the east.

It is a paddy producing centre. During Nayak period there were paddy godowns even as large as could contain 16,000 *Kalams* of paddy. One or two godowns capable of holding 5,000 *Kalams* of paddy are still seen. As heaps of paddy were seen everywhere, the place was known a *Ner kuppai* which in Tamil means heaps of paddy.

There is an old *Siva* temple with numerous stone inscriptions. The temple is said to have been constructed during the period of one Vengalappa Nayak who was one of the chieftains ruling over this area. Till about 10 years ago the remains of his old palace was in existence at this place. The second *kumbabishekam* was performed about 35 years ago. The temple is dedicated to *Manamothakandeswarar* and *Maragathavalliammal*. It is *Sivagarga Devasthanam* temple.

Another Old *Siva* temple enshrining *Perimarutheeswarar* and *Parvathy* is at *Parimaruthupatty*, a suburb of *Nerukuppai* Panchayat and it attracts large crowds during annual festivals. The name is attributed to *Marudhu*, who ruled over *Sivaganga* territory (1783-1801). The peculiarity of this temple is that the *Lingam* (*Siva*) is rectangular instead of round as is seen everywhere. The *Lingam* is said to have been found by a hunter called *Perumal* who is considered as an *Avathar* of *Vishnu*. The *Stalaviruksha* is *Marutha* tree. If the dried bark of the tree is powdered and

taken in it is said to cure diseases. A portion of the tail of the *Nandi* is cut. A Muslim ruler who happened to come that way is said to have did it. The temple is under the management of Sivaganga *Devasthanam*. *Kumbabishekams* were performed in 1896, 1932 and 1955. During the last *Kumbabishekam*, *Jagathguru* Sree Sankarachariar of *Kamakoti Peedam* installed certain *Yantras* in this temple. This place is mentioned in Tirunavukkarasu's *Kshetra Kovai*.

*Sevugaperumal* temple, and the *Ayyanar* temple are popular in these parts. Ten days festival in the month of *Ani* is celebrated.

There is a well maintained Nagarathar *Subramanyaswami* temple in Nerkuppai. Besides, there are other temples for the village deities like *Alagaianachiamman*, *Pillaiyar* and *Pidari*.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Post and Telegraph Office with telephone facilities, a Police Station, a rural dispensary maintained by Panchayat Union and a Board High School.

Nattukkottai Chettiyars and Ambalakars are the predominant communities. A distinguished Tamil scholar Thiru L.P.K.R. Ramathan Chettiyar, comes from this place. He has a number of Tamil publications to his credit.

*Okkur* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 2,124) lies about seven and half miles north of Sivaganga and fifteen miles south-west of Tiruppattur on the bus route from Sivaganga to Tiruppattur. The nearest railway station is Sivaganga.

It is from *Okkum* in Tamil meaning resembling and *Ur* meaning village. The original founders of the village considered it to resemble the ancient Ayodyapuri, the capital of emperor *Dasa-ratha*. Hence called it as *Okkumur* which later came to be known as *Okkur*. There is a village of its name in the Tanjavur District also. As the Nattukkottai Chettiyars are the predominant people in his village they might have adopted this name out of association of thoughts as they migrated from Tanjore District originally. There is a small *Vinayagar* temple.

Masathiar, a great Tamil poetess of the *Sangam* period was born at this place. Her works may be seen in *Purananooru* *Kurundogai* and *Nedunthogai*. Muthu Pulavar, a Muslim poet, was also born here.

This village was the scene of fighting on 28th July 1801. The ruler of Sivaganga attacked the rear guard of the East India Company forces. At night some of the followers of the English set fire to the village and entirely destroyed it.

It has a Post and Telegraph Office, a Panchayat Office, and a rural dispensary.

It is one of the 96 Nattukkottai Chettiyar villages. Okkur Nattukkottai Chettiyars form one of the nine divisions of Nattukkottai Chettiyars. A prominent place is given to them in awarding temple honour.

*Orur* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 1,841) is situated on the south bank of the river Pambar, and eleven miles north-east of Tiruvadanai and is connected by motorable road. Buses are plying. It is three miles from the sea. It is one of the boundary line between Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur districts. Hence it was the seat of a governor during Sethupathi's period.

Orur is from *Or* in Tamil meaning one and *Ur* in Tamil meaning place. It is said to have been derived from a Tamil saying “ஆளுர் கொண்ட ஓருர்” meaning place formed by the merger of six villages.

The village is important for the church of Saint John-De-Britto the place of his martyrdom on 4th February 1693. The feast on the 4th February of each year is the anniversary of Saint John-De-Britto's death. Another feast is held on 22nd June of each year which is the anniversary of the canonisation of John-De-Britto as Saint. This also attracts large crowd. The church has been built on raised ground on the spot where De-Britto was put to death. The soil is red in colour attributed to the blood spilt. There is another Church, the first church dedicated to Arokia Matha. Feast is held in its honour on 8th September of each year.

Near the Hindu quarters there is a small Hindu temple in a state of repair.

There is the remains of an old fort built by Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi (1711-1725). There is a *Muniayah Kovil* in it.

The grave of the chief Rani of the then Governor who pleaded for Saint John-De-Britto is still preserved in the village and it is called *Rani Devi Kallarai*.

The village has a branch Post-Office and a high school maintained by the church. It is a Gramasevak's centre.

*Paganeri* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 3,313) lies 15 miles north-east of Sivaganga. Buses are plying to this place from all directions. The nearest railway station is Sivaganga.

The name is from *Pagan* in Tamil meaning mahout and ‘*Eri*’ in Tamil meaning mounted. The legend has it that long ago when the whole area was a dense forest, a mad elephant visited the place devastating all that lay on its way. A mahout mounted on it at this place and tamed it. Hence the place was named after the incident.

*Pulavanayagamman* temple, with a small tower and stone inscriptions, belonging to Sivaganga *Devasthanam* is the most important temple of the village. According to the legend, this deity is one of the eight *Kalis* (*Astakalis*) who came here in the form of a deer to kill the giant *Mahishasuran*. The giant hid at this place in the guise of grass. So *Kali* assumed the form of a deer and ate the grass. Hence the deity is called *Pulvanayagi* meaning Grass Goddess. '*Pul*' in Tamil means grass and *Nayagi* means Goddess. This temple functioned as a village court for long. All disputes, civil and criminal, were settled here and punishments were awarded without resorting to the courts established by the Government. Ten days festival is held annually and at the end "Bull Chasing" game is played in which the people of 22 villages surrounding this village would take part. About 3,000 men and women would assemble on that day. The temple has a wooden car. There is a *teppakulam* attached to the temple.

A *Siva* temple dedicated to *Neelakanteswarar* and *Kamatchi* belonging to Sivaganga *Devasthanam*, is also an old temple and contains many stone inscriptions.

There is also a *Vishnu* temple dedicated to *Vinna Vanna Perumal* and *Thayaramal*. It also belongs to Sivaganga *Devasthanam*. On the first Friday of every *Adi*, Nagarathars feed about 4,000 persons. This custom is in existence for the past 80 years. In earlier periods they used to feed larger number of persons by boiling 20 bags of rice as against 8 bags now utilised.

Besides, there are four *Pillayar* temples and a *Nayanar* temple. The *Nayanar* temple also contains inscriptions.

There is one small Roman Catholic Church.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Board High School for boys and another high school for girls, a Post and Telegraph Office, a Panchayat Union Rural Dispensary, a *Madar Sangam*, a Co-operative Stores, a Co-operative Society and a Carpentry Co-operative Society.

There are two reading rooms one run by Nagarathars and the other by Nattars. The reading room run by Nagarathars is called Tiruvalluvar Reading Room. Sri V. Pr. PL. M. Kasiviswanathan Chettiyar is the architect of it. There are 3,000 volumes in English and 9,000 volumes in Tamil, all worth about one lakh of rupees. There is a library of rare collection of valuable books. Complete works of Max Muller, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Ramakrishna, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Shakespeare and many others are available here. The library was started in the year 1928. Besides books, it caters journals, daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, etc. The Nattar reading room has only journals.



*Palayampatty* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population 5,777) is three miles north of Aruppukkottai on the Madurai—Aruppukkottai road, on which large number of buses are plying. The nearest railway station is Aruppukkottai which is two miles south of this place.

Palayampatty is derived from, as the name signifies, '*Palayam*' meaning a division and '*Patty*', a village. It is the headquarters of a Zamindari and hence the name. The Zamindari has since been abolished.

There are four temples in this village dedicated to *Subramonyasamy*, *Siva*, *Venugopalasamy* and *Mariamman*. During *Vaigasi*, a festival is held in *Venugopalasamy* temple.

At the heart of the town a match factory is functioning in which nearly 35 gross of match boxes are turned out per day.

Twisting and doubling mills of art silk thread is a thriving industry at this place. Nearly 160 lbs. of sound quality and 80 lbs. of inferior quality twisted art silk yarn are produced per day.

There are a Sub-Post-Office, a Panchayat Office, a Dispensary with a Maternity Centre, a privately managed Senior Basic School, a Government Basic Training School, a Government Model Basic School and a Co-operative Milk Supply Society.

Every year during the first week of May a cattle fair is held organised by the Panchayat Union. It is a popular fair attracting large number of cattle from the neighbouring districts.

*Pallathur* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 5,560) lies 21 mile north of Tiruppattur and 7 miles north of Karaikkudi. Number of buses ply to this place from all directions. The nearest railway station is Chettinad, 2 miles westwards on the Madras-Dhanushkodi line wherein express trains stop here.

This town is situated in a low lying place, all the surrounding places in all the four directions being at a higher level. Hence it was called Pallathur meaning low lying village.

A *Solaiyanduvar Ayyanar* temple, a *Sivan* temple, a *Vishnu* temple and a mosque exist at this place.

This is one of the important place of Nattukkottai Chettiyars place which has produced wealthy Nattukkottai industrialists and educationalists. This place is famous for brass vessels. There are two private factories and one co-operative society engaged in this industry. A Tailoring Unit is functioning here.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a Post and Telegraph Office, a Telephone Exchange Office, a Government Women and Children Hospital, a hospital, a high school, a women's college and a Gandhi Samadarma Padasala (Harijan Elementary School).

There is a Nagarathar *chatram*.

On every Friday, weekly shandy is held when about 500 people would assemble. Trade is carried on in vegetables, rice, hay pottery, hen, fish and dried fish.

*Pamban* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 3,234) is situated in the Island of Rameswaram at a distance of 28 miles to the east of Ramanathapuram and 7 miles to the west of Rameswaram it is situated at the north of Rameswaram-Pamban straits which connect the Palk Straight on the north with the Gulf of Manar on the south. It is connected by railway. The Southern Railway passes through Pamban and the Dhanushkodi-Madras Boat Mail stops at this place.

Pamban derives its name from the Tamil word *Pambu* meaning snake. The channel through the Adam's Bridge by which ships pass from the Gulf of Manar to Palk strait takes a fortuous course like a snake. Hence the name.

It is also stated that foreign traders some times settled in this region. Pamban is a corruption of the term "Vamban" which means a stranger.

In the year 1480, a violent storm breached the isthmus and the breach was rendered permanent. The first causeway over the breach was constructed by Ramappiah, a commander under Tirumalai Nayak of Madura, who was sent with a force to dethrone Sadaika Devar *alias* Dalavoy Sethupathi who ruled over Ramanathapuram Kingdom between 1635 to 1646. After a series of battles the Sethupathi withdrew to the Island of Pamban. Consequently Ramappiah procured the assistance of a number of Europeans who came from Ceylon and Cochin in five vessels and threw a strong causeway across the channel and he was enabled to march his troops over. Pamban afforded good facilities for hiding. In 1622, Saint Thayumanavar realising the political disruption in Rameswaram by the Portuguese missionaries led an army of 30,000 strongmen. Before starting, he said he would win the war without shedding a drop of blood or killing a soldier. The saint concealed the great army in Pamban, went alone to Rameswaram and argued with the Portuguese to withdraw. They refused and were adamant. But by force of circumstances the Portuguese had to withdraw. Thus fulfilling his promise.

Thiru Udaya Thevar *alias* Vijaya Ragnatha Sethupathi who ruled over Ramanathapuram Kingdom between 1711-1725 built a fort in Pamban and from an early period Pamban was used as a refuge for the Ramnad chiefs. In 1749, the Dalavoy of Ramanathapuram rebelled against Sethupathi Racka Thevar. Racka Thevar fled to Pamban to hide himself. But he was pursued and taken as prisoner. The building in which the Ramanathapuram chiefs took refuge may still be seen in a ruined condition and it is called "Kattu Bangalow" or "Forest Bangalow".

Swami Vivekananda landed at Pamban first on his triumphant return in January 1897 from his tour abroad. He was given a

royal welcome and Swami Vivekananda delivered a speech at Pamban.

There is a fort in the town built by the Dutch. Adjoining the light house there is a cluster of buildings formerly used as a jail but now as halting place for the pilgrims who are supplied with raw rice, etc.

Pamban is a port, which gives a well-protected anchorage for large native crafts in the monsoons.

There is a light house as well as a Meteorological Observatory to the north-east of the Custom House under the control of the Port Department. The light is on a white masonry tower 67 feet high and is about 94 feet above high-water mark. It is an automatic light and is visible about 14 miles in all directions.

There were nine wharves and jetties, Government as well as private, scattered over the island and the mainland connected with the Port but this number has since been reduced to six. Access from one to the other is not easy owing to the intervening stretch of sea and channel and to the distances between the wharves extending to nearly three miles. In addition to the wharves there is only one sub-port at Rameswaram for the shipment and landing of coastwise goods.

Cargo as well as passengers from the ports in Ceylon to the Ram-nathapuram District were brought by steamers and sailing vessels direct to Pamban before the opening of the Indo-Ceylon communication. This port was then a very busy one and a considerable amount of import and export duty was collected. Now owing to the opening of the Indo-Ceylon communication the trade of this Port has become very dull.

Formerly, betel nuts, coir, yarn, timber and sundry articles were imported and rice, paddy, dried fish and coral stones were exported from this port. Since the opening of the Indo-Ceylon communication, the foreign trade stopped completely. Only turtles are being exported to Jaffna.

The constant arrival of pilgrims to Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, the trade in cocoanuts, collection of coral stones and chanks and the Pamban Viaduct all combine to give this Port an important appearance.

There are 4 islands attached to this Port, i.e. (1) Shingle Island ; (2) Kurusadai Island ; (3) Pulli Island and (4) Mannali Island. Dried fish and coconut are shipped from Mannali Island which is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Pamban. The Government Research Fisheries Office lies in the Island of Kurusadi, whereas there is an Inspector of Fisheries with his office at Pamban.

Dried fish, chanks, firewood, cocoanuts, coral stones, lime stones, road metals are the local produce. Coral is being important at Mantapam for the use of the Industrial Chemicals (Private) Limited, Sankarnagar, Tirunelveli District as they find Mantapam convenient for landing.

Pamban has only one sub-port, i.e. Rameswaram. The majority of the population are Labbais who are employed as pilots, drivers and in other seafaring pursuits. Pamban was formerly noted for pearl fishery. This is a sanatorium being much cooler than the towns in the mainland. Cocoanuts, pomegranates, limes and other fruit trees are plentiful and bear good produce. They are grown in every garden and in backyards of houses.

There is a combined Post and Telegraph Office in the Port. There is a Government Coconut Nursery in-charge of a Coconut Nursery Assistant. Besides, there is a rural dispensary maintained by the Panchayat Union. The Offices of the Inspector of Fisheries, Panchayat Board, Permanent Railway Inspector and the Port are located here. Some interesting old pieces of artillery have been preserved and parked in front of the port officer's bungalow. Customs house is situated in a tiled Dutch building. The Customs Collector formerly discharged the duties of a Sub-Magistrate also. Subsequently he was relieved of the magisterial duties and the records were transferred to the Sub-Magistrate at Ramanathapuram.

There is a *Subramanyasami* temple. Half a mile from the village there is *Bairawakapila Thirtham*. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Pamban there is *Vellarumi Thirtham*. There is a legend that *Sri Rama* drank from this fountain during his sojourn at this place when he led the campaign against *Lanka*.

There is a travellers' bungalow and a *chatram* attached to *Narikkudy chatram* where pilgrims to Rameswaram are given free rations.

There is a recreation club for the officers called Officers' Club in this village.

*Pandalgudi* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population 4,716) lies 6 miles south of Aruppukkottai on the Aruppukkottai-Ettayapuram road with buses plying between them quite frequently.

The name is from *Pandal* in Tamil means booth and *Kudi* means village meaning booth village and the story goes that in the course of the struggle for Pandyan Kingdom one set of chieftains who plundered various localities destroyed this village and temples and that after the danger was gone the present village grew up round a temple housed in a booth. Hence the name of the village.

It was a sub-division Zamindari. Late Dubash Kader Sahib of Natham purchased this village in the year 1905 from the Raja of Ramanathapuram for Rs. 1.75 lakhs with a Paishkush of Rs. 70,000. Since then he was known as Zamindar of Pandalgudi. This is a border village to Ramanathapuram District. A special feature of this village is that each street is named as a village for example Alagapuri, Vellayapuram, Mettupatty, Nedungavai-patty, Poorareddiapatty and so on.

There are four temples, one church and one mosque. Old idols are kept for view in the *Vishnu* temple. In several places the remains of the old village and temple may be seen. A fort also seems to have been existed. The church has been built in the place of the old fort. An inscription on the temple bell reveals that a Nayak was ruling over this place. The name the old temple is said to be *Pathala Iswaran Koil*. There is a Jain idol in the village.

Best stone chunnam for construction is available here. Salt petre (Sorah) is manufactured here. There are a match factory and a ginning factory.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, a Sub-Post-Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary and a high school.

Weekly market is held on every Saturday.

*Paramagudi* (Paramagudi Taluk—Population 25,368) 22 miles northwest of Ramanathapuram on the road to Madurai, is the headquarters of the Taluk. It is on the southern bank of the *Vaigai*. This place is connected by motorable roads to all important places. The southern Railway passes through this place and the Madras-Dhanushkodi Boat Mail stops at this station.

According to the legend the original name of the place was Parambu Kudi or 'embankment village'. The place appears to have been so named by its situation on the bank of the *Vaigai*. It is also said that the place was originally a parambu forest and named after it as Paramagudi. Yet there is another version. The present Piranmalai in Tiruppattur Taluk, where the great Pari ruled over during the *Sangam* days, is called Parambu Malai and his Kingdom as Parambu Nadu. After the fall of King Pari, people migrated to this place and named it after their original Kingdom. The present name is a corruption of Parambu-kudi.

This was a palayam during Kirshnappa Nayaka's (1564-1572) period. When the Nayaka became the King of Madurai, Tumbichchi Nayaka a powerfull and turbulent Palayakar collected an army, entrenched himself at Paramagudi and paid no respect to King's authority. Seeing this, the King sent Dalavoy Pedda Kesavappa against Tumbichchi Nayaka. But this Dalavoy was defeated and killed. Thereupon the King sent Chinna Kesava, the son of the Dalavoy, who captured the rebel territories. However, the King was merciful and, having taught Tumbichchi Nayak to obey, entrusted to him the Palayam consisting of Paramagudi and Pambur and the neighbouring villages.

There are ten temples in this town. Important of these are those dedicated to *Vishnu*, *Meenakshiamman*, *Chockkanathar*, *Muthalamman* and *Drowpadiamman*. *Chithirai* festival is celebrated in *Chockkanathar*, *Meenakshiamman* and *Vishnu* temples on the same lines as in Madurai. One Kavatty Durai Singa Nayaka

constructed the *Meenakshiamman* temple. Legend has it that he was very pious and used to go to *Meenakshi* temple at Madurai, and that in his old age, on account of his inability, he brought a handful of earth from Madurai *Meenakshiamman* temple and built the one at this place. Festival is celebrated in *Muthalammal* temple in *Panguni* and in *Drowpadiamman* temple during *Puattasi* month.

There are two mosques and four churches at this place.

Paramagudi is a Panchayat and is the headquarters of a Tahsildar. There are a number of offices at this place. The important offices of this place are Taluk Office, Panchayat Union Office, Post-Office with Telegraph and Telephone communications, Police Station, Police Circle Inspector's Office, District Munsif's Court, Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Court, Sub-Treasury Office, Assistant Engineer's Office (H & R.W.), Assistant Engineer's Office (Public Works Department), Inspector of Weights and Measure's Office, Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, Sub-Registrar's Office, Panchayat Office, etc. There is a Government Hospital and Maternity Home in this place. One Government Boys' High School and one Government Girls' High School and a private managed high school are functioning at this place. There is also a Government Agricultural Seed Farm. After the communal disturbances during 1957 in Mudukulattur, Paramagudi and Aruppukkottai taluks, a Special Superintendent of Police has been posted to this place.

There is a travellers' bungalow with four sets of rooms which are electrified and well furnished.

There are two *chatrams* under the management of Ramanathapuram *Samasthanam*. *Saminatha Maniyagan* *Chatram*, was erected by one *Saminathamaniagan*.

Velu Pillai, a former minister of the Ramanathapuram Estate, has built a *chatram* and named it as *Velayudapuram chatram*. This was an important halting place for pilgrims travelling to Rameswaram but after the advent of the railways and buses it ceased to be of any great use.

One Natchi Nagappan Chetty founded Nagappan Chetty *chatram* before 1743 A.D. The Huckdar maintains the *chatram*. Manjaputhu Chettiyars and Sourashtas are the main communities here. Manjaputhu Chettiyars are said to be the early settlers. They monopolise the trade in this town in all branches, as they have the advantage of owning all the buildings in the bazaar street as their ancestral properties. They seldom let out any of their buildings to any other castemen. The Sourashtas quite becoming of their ancestral trade are engaged in weaving and selling cloths. Sarees, dhoties, silks, muslins, coloured clothes are manufactured here.

Weekly market is held on Thursdays. People from villages within a radius of fifteen miles throng on that day. Considerable trade is done in cattle and dried fish. Paramagudi is found to be

he main sphere of operation for the criminals of Mudukulattur Taluk. They visit Paramagudi a day before the market day and stay on till a day after the market-day. With a show of visiting the market, they meet together and commit crimes in Paramagudi, Ilayangudi and nearby places.

*Pasipattinam* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 924) lies 7 miles north of Tondi. It is a coastal village on the Palk's Bay. The village is accessible by bus.

Pasipattinam means seaweed city. All coastal villages are called Pattinam.

This place is known for the Naina Muhammad Oliullah Masjid. Kanduri festival is held in May of each year for ten days, which attracts a vast crowd of pilgrims.

Cocoanut and palmyrah groves are seen in plenty. Fishing is the foremost profession of this place. Palm leaf products are made here.

It has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post-Office.

*Peruvayal* (Ramanathaipuram Taluk—Population 990) is four and a half miles west of Devipatnam and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles due north of Ramanathapuram. There is no direct road to the place and the rough way can be covered only by jeep or bullock cart.

The origin of the name is traced to the good fields in the village.

The village contains a *Subramanyaswamy* temple built by Pradhani Vairavan Servai during the reign of Kattaya Thevar (1733-1736). The stone statues of the Pradhani and the Sethupathi may be seen on the pillars of the temple. The temple was endowed by Sethupathi. The lofty tower of the temple is a land-mark from most of the parts surrounding the village. Annual festival is held in *Panguni Utram* for 10 days.

The village has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post Office. The village is noted for *Erudhukattu*, an annual fair, in which prizes are awarded for catching bulls that are let loose. Agriculture is the only occupation of the people here.

*Pillayarpatthi* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 519) 10 miles west of Karaikkudi, 5 miles east of Tiruppattur and 45 miles east of Madurai, stands at the foot of a sheet of rock where the famous temple to the deity *Karpaga Vinayagar* has been erected. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi. There is no difficulty about transport as there are number of buses passing through the village.

The name is derived from the deity of the temple as the name signifies. Pillayarpatthi means Pillaiyar (deity) village. The village has as many as eleven names including Pillayarpatthi.

The temple of *Pillaiyar* stands close to the northern foot of the rock and the innermost shrine of *Pillaiyar* is cut out of the solid rock. To the left of *Pillaiyar* is the life-size figure of *Tirubhuvana-chakravarthy*. A little to the left in a separate enclosure a *Lingam* called *Tiruvengaikudy Mahadevar* is cut out of the same rock. An unfinished image of a Pallava King is seen outside on the face of the rock. In front of this is a beautiful temple for *Marudeesar* and *Sivagami* alias *Vadumalarmangai*, a fine example of temple construction. Its roof is made of great stone slabs and is supported by tall carved monolithic pillars. The sculptural work claims attention. There are two *gopurams*. The one on the eastern side is the taller of the two. A beautiful reservoir with coconut all round is in front of the temple.

The presiding deity called *Karpaga Pillaiyar* alias *Thesivinayaga Pillaiyar* is a bas-relief work, 6 feet high and 5 feet broad, with only two hands instead of four, holding a *Lingam* on the right hand, in a half *Padmasanam* (one leg only laid on the other thigh) sitting posture and the trunk curled on the right side known as *Valampuri*. This deity is also called by seven other names. The festival is celebrated on *Chathurthy* in the month of *Avani* for 10 days when about 4,000 people gather.

The temple is rich with inscriptions. It is seen from it that this should have been founded during the Pallava period (642 to 668 A.D.). The inscriptions mention names of the kings Seevallabha Thevar (1091-1116 A.D.), Vikrama Pandya Thevar (1180-1190 A.D.), Konerimaikondan, Kulothunga Cholan III (1178-1223 A.D.), Sundarapandya Thevar (1216-1238 A.D.) and Kulasekara Thevar (1266-1311 A.D.). The temple passed into the hands of Nagarathar during the later period of the 12th century or the beginning of 13th Century. The temple was renovated on 22nd January 1899, 10th February 1928, 12th June 1933 and 10th February 1951. During the Muslim reign in Madurai, the idols of the temple were buried in the well inside the temple. They were accidentally discovered when the temple was renovated during 1899 and the well was repaired. Madurai Tamil Sangam (College), Vidwan M. Govindasami Iyer, Karaikkudi R.M.S. Chockalingam and others have composed verses on this temple.

There is a small *Pillaiyar* temple on a sheet of rock on the eastern side of the *Karpaga Vinayagar* temple called Gorakkar temple. It is said to have been erected by the Sidhar Gorakkar and worshipped by him.

Stone cutting is the chief industry of this place. The rock is said to be of fine quality for making *Pillairs*, slabs, etc. There are skillful stone masons who can do good sculptural work.



There is a branch Post-Office, a Panchayat Office and an Ayurvedic dispensary run by the disciples of late Sri Narayana Paramahansa of Kerala State. This dispensary is famous for treatment for paralysis. This dispensary is known as Narayana Ayurveda Asramam.

There are two choultries one for males and the other for female pilgrims.

*Piranmalai* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 2,915) is 15 miles north-west of Tiruppattur and five miles north of Chadurveda-mangalam which is situated on the Tiruppattur-Dindigul road on the 10th mile from Tiruppattur. Regular buses ply on the Tiruppattur-Dindigul road and very few of them go to Piranmalai. There is only a metalled road from Chadurvedamangalam to Piranmalai.

The origin of the word is referred to the *Siva* temple at the bottom of the hill. It is derived from *Piran* in Tamil, referring to Lord *Siva* and *Malai* means mountain, meaning Siva's mountain. Col. Welsh called it as Pigeon Hill as its name signifies.

This place is situated at the bottom of a high and rugged mountain about 2,500 feet high. It is very difficult to climb to the summit as it is very craggy. The hill in many parts is covered by deep jungle abounding with game. Short way up the hill there is a *Bairavar* temple. The top of the hill was a military post. On the top of the hill is to be found the ruins of forts in most inaccessible places nearly surrounded by hills on 2 sides. It is one of the specimens of native masonry. It is very nearly circular. It is built entirely of stone with ramparts surrounded with blocks of granite cut out to form the parapet and firmly resting on their own bases as not to require any kind of fastening. There are two strong buildings which probably were used as strong room for ammunitions. An old cannon is still seen on the top of the hill by the side of three bluff rocks. There is a mosque of Sheik Abdulla near a pond which is a place of pilgrimage for Muhammadans. Two tridents (தெவல்) (Lord *Subramania's* weapon) have been planted a little way from the mosque on a massive rock of the hill which are worshipped by Hindus. There are five pools in the rock called *Pandava Thirthams*. A trigonometrical station is located on the top of the hill.

At the foot of the hill there is the fort of Marudhus' enclosing the temple of *Thirukkodungundreesan*. The fort can be seen only on a closer view of the construction. To a distant view it would look like a choultry at the foot of the hill. The fort is constructed under a projecting precipice of the hill. It has two walls. The outer wall is about one to two feet in thickness and 15 to 16 feet high. The inner wall is about 40 feet high cut out of the rock with a parapet added above the rock portion. Inside the walls reservoirs have been constructed for storage of water. The building

Inside are strong enough to be used during war times. From the upper portion of the building one can see Kunnakkudi, Kalaiyarkoil, Tirukoshtiyur, Melur hills and Anamalai and country 30 miles around. The East India Company's forces captured this fort on 18th September 1801, but no harm was done to the temple or the fort probably because the natives employed by the Company considered it as dreadful sacrilege to do harm to the temple.

The King Pari known as Parivallal of the *Sangam* age, a contemporary of Avvaiyar, is said to have lived in this place and ruled over the country around when this area was known as Parambu Nadu.

Piranmalai is a spur on the Eastern Ghats. There are five temples. Three of them are clustered together at various levels. *Mangaiyoz Bagar* with his consort is a rock cut *Siva* temple in a cave at the top. The Lord came down to earth to appear before *Agasthya* who did penance. There are the deities of *Ganesa*, *Vallabhai* (*Sakthi*) and *Lakshmi*. The hall has 64 pillars representing 64 worlds or *Vaikuntam*. Below this is the shrine of *Bhairava*, the guardian deity. Next below is *Ugraha Lingam*. *Amirthaswami* deity is a little farther to this. Beyond this is Lord *Subramanya*. His vehicle here is elephant instead of his celestial vehicle peacock. There is a tamarind tree whose leaves never close together even during nights. There is a rare flag staff with the motifs of *Ganesa* on the south *Sivalingam* on the west, three-headed spear on the north and the sacred bull on the east are carved on it.

The *Siva* temple is richly sculptured with inscriptions of Pandyan and Vijayanagaram dynasties. The stone inscriptions refer to Venkatapathy Raya (I) (A.D. 1588). The temple was renovated in the year 1954 and 1957. It was electrified in the year 1956. Piranmalai is the subject of one of the hymns of Sambandar. Saint Arunagirinathar also has sung in praise of this place. This temple is one of the fourteen great sacred Pandya temples. Annual festival is held in the month of *Vaikasi*.

There are a village panchayat, a Primary Health Centre, a high school and a branch Post-Office in this village.

*Rajapalayam* (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population 71,203) is a Municipality and is situated on the Srivilliputtur-Tenkasi road. From Srivilliputtur it is 7 miles connected by bus from all places. It is a railway station and the Southern Railway line passes through it. The Madras-Trivandrum Express train stops at this place.

Rajapalayam is derived from the word 'Raja's Tamil synonym for Raju and *Palayam* in Tamil means 'a Cantonment or Fort'. Thus Rajapalayam means Rajus' Fort. Rajapalayam is inhabited chiefly by people who came from the old Vijayanagaram State

One Chinna Raja, a lineal descendant of the King of Vijayanagar belonging to the Pusapati exogamous sect migrated to the south along with his followers and settled at Kilarajakularaman at the first instance. In the course of their hunting expeditious they reached Sanjeevi Hills. A little west of it their dogs were attacked by hares which were known for their timidity. They thought that this phenomenon was due to the character of the soil, and hence they transferred their settlement to this place in 1483 A.D. The *Charadi*, the caste meeting place in Palaya Palayam, is the spot where they originally settled.

When Vijayanagaram rule was established in Madurai, the descendants of the original emigrants were said to have served under the southern chieftains, Chokkanatha Nayak, King of Madurai (1659-1682), has recorded his appreciation of the service rendered by Chinna Rajah and his four sons and has granted a *Sasanam*. Either after the battle of Talaikotta (1565) or on the eve of the same battle more Rajus migrated to the south from the Vijayanagar Empire. They settled in Pudupalayam, western portion of Rajapalayam Municipality and the township was expanded by purchasing lands from Vijayarenga Chokkanatha Nayak (1706—1732).

The hill situated east of the town is called *Sanjeevi Malai*. The traditional story goes making its connection with the *Ramayana*. *Hanuman* who brought the hill with *Sanjeevi* herb to heal the wounds of *Lakshmana* in their battle with *Ravana's* group threw it away after its use ; and a portion of it fell here and grew into this Sanjeevi Hill. On this hill are located the "*Sanjeevinatha* temple" and *Sri Kumaraswamy* temple.

Rajapalayam was constituted as a United Board in the year 1886. It became a Panchayat Board in the year 1930. Railway line was laid in the year 1927. Town was electrified in 1937. It was constituted into a Municipality in 1940. It was upgraded as a city in 1952. It is the headquarters of an independent Deputy Tahsildar and the Panchayat Union.

The principal feature of this place is that about 7 miles north of this place, there are mountains of Western Ghats. The forest is the source of the *Mudangiar* river, which fills the various tanks around Rajapalayam.

The Western Ghats near Rajapalayam is about four thousand feet high. The forest is invested with wild beasts particularly herds of wild elephants. Till about 20 years ago the herds of elephants from the adjoining forest in Kerala on the West used to come here now and then by the gap coming near Alagar Koil. Now elephants scale over the Western Ghats and come to the bottom of the hills bordering the fields of the plains which form part of Srivilliputtur Taluk. Elephants which were nomadic in those days have almost

become permanent residents in these forests. The cocanut gardens, teak plantations and other plants edible to the elephants grown in the patta lands are subject to devastation by the elephants frequently, causing heavy loss to the ryots. They have become almost a standing menace.

Rajapalayam is a growing industrial town. There are six spinning mills, nine power loom factories and one waste cotton plant, 15 ginning factories. Besides there are a number of factories, such as wood-screw factory, surgical cotton, plaster of paris, bolt and machinery screw, various kinds of nails, insulated electrical goods, cycle spare parts, sugar-cane crusher rolls, saw mills, electrical motor manufacturing, electrical motorre-winding, cotton bale pressing factory, match factories, foundaries, 23 rice and oil mills, 11 lathe works, five printing presses, six winding factories and a number of other small scale industries.

The Government have established a general purpose engineering workshop at Rajapalayam with an outlay of 87 lakhs of rupees and it is functioning from 1958. All kinds of hospital furniture, steel almyrahs, chairs, cup-boards, etc., are manufactured here. A Chick-board factory at Rajapalayam at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakhs is sought to be established. A cotton seed oil plant is likely to go into production shortly at this place.

Considerable trade is done in this place in cotton, grains, wood char-coal and fire-wood.

This town is famous for dogs of a special variety, highly useful for hunting. But this variety of dogs are now becoming extinct as they do not thrive in other parts of the country. This place is also famous for mangoes.

At the bottom of the ghats at about eight miles west of Rajapalayam, there is a temple dedicated to *Ayyanar* which is very popular as a picnic centre. It is situated in the dense forest with its natural beauty ; and the small waterfalls dropping from a height of 15 feet adds to its attraction.

The biggest temple is the one dedicated to "*Mayuran*—the Swami" which is situated at the northern extremity of the town. It has got fairly large endowments of lands and a few small inams also, all endowed in olden days. This is a *Siva* temple. The car festival which is its main festival, takes place in the Tamil month of *Ani* ; and the festival lasts for nine days. *Ramaswami* temple is in the western end of Palayapalayam. At *Droupadhi Amman* temple, *Agnikali* festival is performed in the end of *Punguni*. *Subramanyasamy* temple is in the middle of the town. In the southern end of the town, there is the temple of *Sri Kothandarama*. There are also *Sokkanathar* temple and *Mariyamman* temple. The latter attracts

large number of worshippers particularly on every Friday. About a few furlongs on the east of the town, there is a *Vaishnava* temple called *Vettai Perumal Koil*. Marriages are performed in this temple by poorer class of people. The biggest festival a public one, which all sections of the population enjoy, is the one celebrated on the Tamil New Years' Day. People gather in thousands and thousands in the big maidan near the tank called "Appalaraja Tank" which is to the west of the town. That is a day of importance to "*Sri Ayyanar Deity*" also. This festival attracts worshippers from distant places like Madurai and other places. This festival bears much augury and significance, since the Tamil New Year commences on that day.

The Gandhi Kalai Mandram was founded by late P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja on 16, November 1955, to which he donated his own family residence. It is an institution intended to promote knowledge, education and culture. This building has the distinction of accommodating Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturibai on 4th and 5th October 1927 and again Mahatma Gandhi, Thakkar Baba and Mira Ben on 25th January 1934; Rajendra Prasad on 30th October 1935 and Jawaharlal Nehru on 13th October 1936.

There are a combined Post and Telegraph Office, a Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Telephone Exchange Office, a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer's Office, an Electricity Assistant Engineer's Office, a Water Works Assistant Engineer's Office, a Central Excise Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office and a Labour Inspector's Office at this place.

There are two Boys' High Schools, one Girls' High School and a Polytechnic for Boys.

Rajapalayam weekly market is the biggest market in the whole of Ramanathapuram District. It was the property of late A.K.D. Dharmaraja which was endowed for Dharmaraja's Education Charity Trust. The income of it goes to maintain Educational Institutions run by the Trust. This weekly market which began in 1822 had grown gradually into the biggest market for the whole District. The market is held every Thursday.

There is a Municipal traveller's bungalow, which is well furnished and electrified. In Pudupalayam there is a *chatram*, an old institution serving as a resting place for the travellers. There is free feeding for six pilgrims every day. It was found in 1878 largely by the endowments of the family properties of A.K.D. Dharmaraja. His family is the hereditary Huckdars of the *chatram*.

A new public Rest House, for which only moderate charges are levied, has been constructed on the Railway Feeder Road from out of the funds of the Huckdar Dharmaraja's Chatram Funds.

*Rajasingamangalam* (Tiruvadanai Taluk-population 4,140) is situated below a large tank on the west and lies 12 miles south-west of Tiruvadanai, 23 miles south of Devakottai, 23 miles north of Ramanathapuram, 13 miles north of Devipatnam and 26 mile east of Paramagudi. A bus route connecting Devakottai and Ramanathapuram runs north to south, a mile east of Rajasingamangalam. All buses touch this place enroute.

According to tradition the village was named after Rajasimha, a Pallava King. *Simha*, a Sanskrit word, in Tamil means 'Singam', a lion. *Mangala* in Sanskrit means prosperity. There is reason to believe the tradition because during the revenue administration of Pallavas numerous irrigation tanks were constructed which exist even to-day. Mention may be made of Tenneri Tank near Kancheepuram and Kaveripakkam Tank. Similar to these there is a very big tank here also, the biggest in Ramanathapuram District. The tank is about 14 miles long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles broad. It is fed by river *Vaigai* through Nattar channel and two jungle streams called *Manimuthar* and *Perar* besides a catchment area of 147 square miles.

This place was among the places occupied by Lankapura Dandanayaka (about 1173 A.D.).

About two miles north-east of this place there was an old fort built by Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi (1711-1725) which exists even to-day in a ruined condition called Arumugamkottai because of its six sides. This was dismantled by the British after 1801 A.D.

There are two temples one dedicated to *Kailasanathaswamy* (*Siva*) built by Varaguna Pandya and the other to *Vishnu*, *Karia Manicka Perumal*. There are stone inscriptions in the *Siva* temple. There are mosque and a church.

Once Brahmins were foremost in the place. Now the dominant community is the Muslim. This place is one of the Muhammadan centres. All of them are agriculturists and a few of them trade in Ceylon and Rangoon. Agriculture is the main occupation of this place. It is a fertile country full of wet lands and cocoanut gardens. Wholesale procurement and sale in paddy is done here.

It was the headquarters of a Zamin Taluk during the Ramanathapuram Estate administration. Now it is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union. It has a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Post and Telegraph Office, a Police Station, a High School, a Panchayat Office, a Deputy Inspector of School's Office, a Co-operative Society and a National Malaria Eradication Programme Sub-Office. It is a Key Village Extension Centre for animal husbandry.

There are a traveller's bungalow and a village *chavadi*.

**Ramanathapuram** (Ramanathapuram Taluk- Population: 26,890) is 70 miles south-east of Madurai. From the sea it is only 9 miles. Southern Railway passes through this place and the Madras Dhanushkodi Boat Mail stops at this station. This is the terminus for a number of bus routes and the Ramanathapuram—Nagercoil, Ramanathapuram—Tanjavur and Ramanathapuram—Nagapattinam State Express Buses start from this place.

The place derives its name from Lord *Ramanathaswami* of Rameswaram. It is said that the town was originally known as Mugavainagaram. The origin of this name is traced to the epic *Ramayana*. The legend has it that *Rama* directed *Guha* to build a town near the mouth of Sethu. The sea is said to have been then very near to Ramanathapuram. The town came into existence and was known as Mugavainagaram meaning mouth or entrance town. Ever now Ramanathapuram is addressed as Mugavai.

It was the capital of Ramanathapuram Zamin and the Taluk. Ragunatha Sethupathi alias Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-1710) transferred his capital from Bogalore to Ramanathapuram. It was also the capital of the District in 1795 A.D. It is now a Municipality and the headquarters of Ramanathapuram District is at Madurai having been shifted during the British period so as not to eclipse the position and status of the Raja of Ramanathapuram in the presence of the Collector.

Ragunatha Sethupathi alias Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-1710) constructed the Ramanathapuram fort by brick and stone walls of 27 feet high and 5 feet thick surrounded by a ditch and defended by 32 small bastions, now ruined. A mile west of Ramanathapuram are the remains of the fort and the buildings of Sethupathies called Moolaikothalam. The fort was formerly garrisoned by a company of native infantry. Ramanathapuram was stormed by Tirumala Nayak during the reign of Sadika Thevar alias Dalavoy Sethupathi (1635-1646) and the Sethupathi was captured and taken to Madurai. In 1726 A.D. the Tanjavur force advanced to Ramanathapuram, captured and took Tanda Tevar as prisoner and ruined the fort. During the reign of Muthuramalinga Sethupathi (1763-1772), his minister Damodaran Pillai strengthened the fort and placed it in a thorough defence. In June, 1772 the Company's forces supported the military undertakings of the Nawab of Carnatic and captured Ramanathapuram. The fort passed into the hands of the Nawab of Arcot. In 1792 the British occupied Ramanathapuram having been surrendered by the Sethupathi to the Company by a treaty, owing to his inability to pay the revenue which was raised to Rs. 2,20,000. Raja Muthuramalinga Sethupathi was deposed for rebellion in 1795. The fort was not very extensive and was never a formidable one. It was occupied by Colonel Martinz of the Nawab's service who commanded the place as well as a regularly disciplined provincial battallion bearing his own name for upwards of 30 years. He constructed a bungalow on the eastern bank of Muhavai Urani and to the west of the place and it was known after his name.

The extensive place was built by Kilavan Sethupathi (1674-1710) in the centre of the fort with high stone walls which still exist. Some of the old artillery are kept in the palace as exhibits for the visitors. On the northern side stands the magnificent building known as Ramalinga Vilasam. Sethupathis are accustomed to take their seats during ceremonial occasions. In the building it is portrayed the famous battle between the Raja of Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur. There is a pavillion in front of the building. Government Offices are located in some of the buildings of the place.

An old *Siva* temple, *Vishnu* temple enshrining *Rama*, the *Subramanyaswamy* temple, the *Rajarajeswari* temple are within the palace. *Thayumanavar* temple and *Muhuramalingaswamy* temple are the important temples in the town. Festivals are held in *Vijayadasami* and *Panguni Utram*. To the east of the town there is an old Musjid. There are two Roman Catholic Churches and one Protestant Church.

Manufacture of coarse cloths is made in the eastern part of the town. A Spinning Mill is under construction. Considerable trade is done in palm leaf, fancy goods and articles. To improve this cottage industry, Ramanathapuram Palm Leaf Products Co-operative Cottage Industry Society was established in 1952. This place is famous for trade in chillies.

There are number of offices in the town. The chief among them are the Taluk Office, Panchyat Union Office, Municipal Office, District Munsif's Court, Revenue Divisional Office, Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Post Offices, District Medical Office, Post Office with Telegraph and Telephone, Cocconut Development Office, Survey Office, Deputy Inspector of Schools Office, Assistant Engineer's Office for Highways, Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Court, etc. There are two high schools for boys and one high school for girls.

Saint Martins' Hospital deserves mention. It was opened in 1903. It was closed during the World War I. It was reopened in 1923. Now it is a hospital for women. There are 120 beds and is training midwives since 1930. About 12 are graduated yearly.

A description about Ramanathapuram will be incomplete without a mention about Saint Thayumanavar. He came to Ramanathapuram a few years after 1644. He was born to Kediliappa Pillai and Gajavalli Ammal at Tiruchirapalli when Kediliappa Pillai was the Finance Minister under the King. At the age of 18, when his father died, Thayumanavar stepped into the shoes of his father and was appointed in the same post by the King. After some service he resigned the post and spent his time in meditation and pilgrimage. In 1662, he thwarted the danger to Sethupathi from the Portuguese by leading an army to Rameswaram Island. After some time he settled in Ramanathapuram and died at the same place. A temple has been constructed on the spot where he was in *Samadhi*.



On January 25, 1897 Swami Vivekananda visited the town during the reign of Baskara Sethupathi and stayed at Sankara Vilas which exhibits an oil painting of Swami Vivekananda commemorating his stay there.

Ramalinga Vilas is an ancient building of Moorish style with Byzantine arches containing wall paintings of historic events like battles, etc. It is in this building there is the sacred square block of stone on a platform on which Sethupathies sit when they are crowned. Shanmuga Vilas is the Sethupathies private quarters.

Christ Church, an old Protestant Church, was built by Colonel Martinz, a French Catholic Military Officer. During the period of Lord William Bentinck it was consecrated and handed over in 1804. Colonel Martinz died in 1810 and he was buried here. F.W. Ellis, Collector of Madras, who died in 1819, Rev. Mr. Souter and members of the Shutie family were also buried here. Bhaskara Sethupathi has presented a highly ornamented brass lantern to this Church. The Singatope Church called St. Thomas Chapel is simple attended by Protestant residents of this area. The seventy years old Catholic Church is artistic. The windows are fitted with stained glass windows depicting the martyrdom of John De Britto. Inside the church 14 pictures portray the life of Jesus.

There is a good turtle fishing along the coast of Ramanathapuram.

There is a well-furnished travellers' bungalow with three sets of rooms. There are three *chatrams* at this place for the stay of pilgrims to Rameswaram.

A market is held on every Wednesday.

*Ramappayan Causeway.*—This is between Mantapam and Pamban. This was erected by Ramappaya, General of Thirumalai Nayak, in order to capture Dalavoi Sethupathi who had taken refuge in Pamban and defied the authority of the Nayak, the ruler of Madurai. This Causeway is now in ruins. A few detached rocks are all that remains out of this causeway.

*Rameswaram* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 6,801) is situated in the island of Rameswaram at a distance of 35 miles to the east of Ramanathapuram and it is about 12 miles to the east north-east of Mantapam. The distance between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi is 15 miles by sea and 24 miles by train *via* Pamban, near Mantapam, a place 22 miles east of Ramanathapuram there is good motorable road. From Mantapam the journey has to be done by rail to reach Rameswaram. There is a train service to Rameswaram. Before the opening of the railway line in 1914 pilgrims to and from Rameswaram travelled by boat from Mantapam. Boats are allowed to take pilgrims

from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi bathing ghat under a special permit for 6 months from April to October each year.

The name Rameswaram is derived from *Rama* the hero of *Ramayana* plus *Eswaran*. *Eswaran* was worshipped by *Rama*, hence the name. The place is also called in Sanskrit as *Devanagara* meaning city of God. Rameswaram was originally founded by *Rama* after invasion of Ceylon. After killing *Ravana*, *Rama* sojourned at Gandha Mandhanam in the island of Rameswaram with *Sita*. The *Rishis* advised *Rama* to establish a *Linga* and worship it so as to purge himself of the sin of *Brahmahatya* (Brahminicide) committed by slaving *Ravana*, who was the son of a Brahmin by *Rakshasa* woman. *Rama* fixed an auspicious time and sent *Hanuman* to Mount Kailas for etching a *Lingam*. *Hanuman* failed to return in time. So, on the advice of the *Rishis* he established a *Lingam* made by *Sita*. Soon, *Hanuman* returned with a *Lingam*. On seeing a *Lingam* already established *Hanuman* got angry and tried to uproot the *Lingam* made by *Sita* by coiling his tail round it. He was not able to remove it but only got his tail broken and fell down bleeding. To testify to this event one can see to the north of the east main gate a big image of *Hanuman* in red colour. Marks made by the tail are also visible on the *Linga*. To pacify *Hanuman*, *Rama* asked *Hanuman* not to grieve over the matter but to fix his *Lingam* a little to the north of that made by *Sita* and ordered that all poojas should be done first to the *Hanuman Lingam* and only afterwards to the *Rama Linga*. It is known after him as *Hanuman Linga* or *Kasilinga*. The *Lingam* established by *Sita* was called as *Rama Linga*, *Ramanatha* and *Ramesvara*. *Ramalingam* of Rameswaram is one of the twelve *Jyothi Lingams* in India. ~~Scholars fix the period of the *Ramayana* to third century B.C. So the *Linga* installed by *Rama* should be now more than 2,200 years old.~~

The great temple of *Ramalingaswamy* stands on rising ground in the northern part of the island and great wealth has been lavished on it by the Sethupathies. This is one of the great fourteen sacred temples of the Pandiyas. Upto 12th century this temple was located in a thatched shed in charge of a Sanyasi. The massive temple as it stands at present is not the work of one age, but extends for a period of more than 500 years and has been erected and endowed almost by one family, the Sethupathi chiefs of Ramanathapuram. The temple buildings are surrounded by a high wall covering an area about 865 feet from east to west and 657 feet from north to south. The height of the eastern *Gopuram* is about 126 feet and that of the west is 78 feet. There are unfinished *Gopurams*. The *Gopurams* are built wholly of stone from the base to the summit, on the north, south and two completed ones on the east and west. The eastern *Gopuram* with nine storeys of 126 feet height was completed during 1897 to 1904 from the *Tiruppani* funds in the

hands of AL. AR. family of Devakottai. The gateway on the west is 78 feet high and is elaborately carved with mythological figures, its form being trapezoid. The workmanship is massive and regular and the architecture resembles Egyptian style. The other three *Gopurams* are 19 feet high composed of single upright stones with others laid across at the top. The largest of the three is that on the east. It is not on the wall of the present outer enclosure but on that of the inner one, surrounding the inner *Pra-karam*. Outside the main wall, on the same side are two large porticoes, one opposite to this *Gopuram* and leading up towards it, and the other to the south leading into a subordinate *Gopuram* in a line with the last and surmounting the gateway in front of the temple of the Goddess *Amman*. Inside the gateway is a colonnade having a passage between triple row of pillars to a square of about 600 feet into which the sacred temples open. The colonnade runs along the four sides of the quadrangle. It measures from north to south 353 feet and east to west 671 feet by 17 feet in breadth. The ceiling is composed of large slabs of granite supported by 1,212 carved granite pillars each 12 feet high raised on each side by a platform 5 feet high, most of the pillars are single blocks of stone all brought from a distance of 40 miles. The corridors are the most celebrated feature of the temple. These extend to nearly 4,000 feet in length from 20 to 30 feet broad and from the floor to the centre of the roof about 30 feet in height. Each pillar is composite and highly elaborate in design. The impression produced by such a display of labour when extended to an immense length is unique. None of the European cathedrals are so long and even that of St. Peter's is only 600 feet from the door to the apse. Here the side corridors are 690 feet long and open into transverse galleries as rich in detail as themselves. These with the varied modes of lighting, produce an effect, that is not equalled certainly anywhere in India. Unfortunately the whole has been so extensively whitewashed and painted that the general effect is altered, and much of the intrinsic, sharpness of detail is eclipsed. The art displayed is perhaps not so good as in some other temples. Much of the effect produced on the mind of the observer is due to the immensity of the labour employed combined with a certain picturesqueness and mystery. Inside the great enclosure is the third *prakaram* abutting on the east wall measuring about 690 feet east to west and 435 feet north to south. Like the entrance passage it has a corridor on a raised platform on each side of it and run round the four sides of rectangle which it encloses. This *prakaram* alone is opened to all castes. Within it and nearer the east face is an area, 386 feet from east to west by about 314 feet from north to south also surrounded by a high wall enclosing the second *prakaram*. This *prakaram* is by no means so imposing as the third. This *prakaram* is left partly built and the renovation work is in progress. Within this first *prakaram* are the shrines of the God *Ramanathaswamy* and of this consort *Parvathavardhini Amman*, of *Visvanathaswamy* and *Visalakshi Amman*, besides a number

of smaller chapels and rooms. It is difficult to judge of the age of the temple because it is so much affected by the saline and sea-air, but it is probably older than the "Seven Pagodas" at Mahabali-puram near Madras. The masonry structure around the inner shrine of the sanctum-sanctorum of the temple was built by a Ceylon prince styled Parakramabhahu in A.D. 1173, the latter having had the stone hewn at Trincolmale and numbered on the spot ready to be put together. The north and south *gopurams* were built by Keerana Royar of Deccan about 1420 A.D. The western *gopuram* and the outer surrounding walls are the work of Udayan Sethupathi and Komaty Chetti of Nagore in 1434 A.D. and statues of the merchant and his wife surmount the eastern wall. In 1450 *Ambal Prakaram* and other additions were made to the inner buildings by a wealthy Hindu from Madurai and others during the days of Vishwanatha Nayak of Madura whose statue and that of his son, Krishnappa, are set up in front of the *Nandhi*. The southern half of the second corridor was constructed by Tirumalai Sethupathi (1647—1672) whose statue and that of his son Raghunathan stand side by side on the southern entrance of the *Anman* temple and are honoured with garlands and an offering of betanrut and flowers every Friday night when the image of the diety is brought to this place on its way to *Palliarai* or bedroom in the *Anman* temple. Ragunatha Tirumalai Sethupathi also built the rest of the second *prakaram* in A.D. 1657—58. In 1623 the *Nandi Mandapam* and the *Ardha Mandapam* in the first *prakaram* was built by Kuthan Sethupathi. The *Nandhi* is a giant structure made of *sudhai* work with a height of 17 feet, length 22 feet and breadth 12 feet. The great unfinished eastern *gopuram* is the work of Dalavoy Sethupathi (1635—1646) who also built the *Sabhapathi* shrine in the north-east corner of the third *Prakaram*. In 1715, Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi, besides other buildings, erected the *Palliarai* or bed-room of the *Anman* temple and the *Mandapam* in front of which are statues of himself and his brother. In about 1740 Kumara Muthu Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi began the third *Prakaram* setting up the entrances into it from the *gopurams* on all four sides and it was completed by Muthu Ramalinga Sethupathi in 1769. The statues of the latter and of his two Ministers Muthirulappa Pillai son of Soundara Pandiya Pillai and Krishan Iyengar with members of his family are conspicuous in the corridor in the western entrance.

The renovation of the first *Prakaram* and the inner shrine by replacing the old lime stones by black granite and making provision for free light and air was made during 1907 to 1935 by the AL. A.R. family of Devakottai with the *Tiruppani* funds. *Ashta-bandana Kumbabishekam* was performed on February 6, 1925. Last *Kumbabishekam* was performed on February 27, 1947. The second *prakaram* is in the course of renovation. According to the stone inscriptions recorded in the temple, the temple was repaired

by Sage Ramanatha in the days of Visubhupathy (1608), the building of the Ramalingeswara during the time of Virabhupathy (1608) ; and the ruined *prakara* by Ramanatha, (1618). The temple is rich with stone inscriptions and copper plate *sasana*. The Sethupathies have made many grants and gifts to the temple and made vast endowments to it. Almost every Sethupathi has done something or other to the temple.

On entering the east main gate one sees the *Hanuman* mentioned above. Then there is the Big Bull (*Nandhi*) on both sides of which there are the statues of the Nayak Kings of Madurai, Viswanatha and Krishnama. In the northern innermost *prakaram* there are 11 *Lingams*—*Ekadasurdhras*. *Jothirlingam* said to have been established by *Vibishna* is worth seeing. In the sanctum—sanctorum there is the *Lord Ramanatha*. To the north of this shrine is the Shrine of *Visvanatha*, the *Linga* brought by *Hanuman*. One special feature of the temple is that *Ramalinga* is bathed every morning with water brought from the Ganges which having received additional sanctity by the rite is sold to devotees at high price.

There is a separate inner shrine for the goddess *Parvathavarthini*. In the *prakara* round this shrine there are two *Vinayakars*, *Kalyanasundreswara* and *Vishnu* in lying posture. In front of the *Ambal* shrine is *Sukravara Mantapa*. *Ashtalakshmis* (Eight different *Lakshmis*) are facing east. The pillars in this *Mandapa* are adorned with beautiful sculptures representing the various forms of Goddesses. In the western outer *prakara* there is the shrine of *Sethumadhavar*, the image made of white stone. In the north-western corner of the outer *prakara* there is what is called *Ramalinga prathishta* depicting the story of how *Rama* established the *Linga* here. This is worth seeing. Apart from the *Sethu Theertham*, there are other *theerthams* attached to this shrine. The *Sihala-purana* enumerates as many as 64 *theerthams*. The sea in front of the temple is called *Agnitheertha*. Within the temple there are 22 *theerthams* in the form of tanks, ponds and wells. *Kodi theertham* is the important *theertham*. It is said after taking bath in this *theertham* one should leave Rameswaram. *Rama Lakshmana Theerthams* lying at a distance of half a mile to the west of the temple are also considered sacred.

The three main festivals of the temple fall in the month of February, June and July. The *Sivarathri* festival for ten days in February, *Bramotsavam* i.e. *Sri Ramalinga Pradhista* festival for three days in June and the *Thirukalyanam* festival for seventeen days in July attract thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India. More people come from Nepal and north of Ganges than from the Tamil districts in the immediate vicinity while the Deccan and the Mysore contribute the majority.

Thirugnanasambandar, Thirunavukkarasar, Sekilar, Kambar, arunagirinathar, Paranjothimunivar and Thayumanavar have sung in praise of this place and the temple. Nirambavashagia Thesigar

Palapatti Chokkanatha Pulavar, Muthuvijayam Pillai and Vanamamalai Pillai have written *Puranas* and prose works on this place.

Once when saint Thayumanavar visited this place he prayed God through a song for rain to alleviate the miseries of the people. As a result of it, it rained immediately.

Muthukrishna Nayaka (1601-1609) appointed Sadaika Thevar as the ruler of the Marava country in order to clear the nests of robber chieftains who perpetually haunted the pilgrims route to Rameswaram.

In 1662, the Portuguese encamped at Rameswaram. The poet-saint Thayumanavar saw the danger. With the united efforts of Ragunatha Sethupathi, he collected a large army and marched towards Rameswaram. Leaving the army at Pamban, he went along and requested the Portuguese to quit. But the Portuguese refused. But they had to quit as a Dutch fleet was seen coming to Rameswaram. Thus the place was got rid of Portuguese.

Swami Vivekananda visited the temple on January 27, 1897 and delivered an address. On September 28, 1963, President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan opened the memorial consisting of stone tablets reproducing the speech of Swami Vivekananda delivered at Rameswaram temple in 1897, at the very place where he delivered the speech.

Many Telugu and Tamil astronomers as Baulandityagan and Mallicarjunam refer their computations to the meridian of Rameswaram.

The present *Acharya* of *Kamakoti Peedam*, the 68th in descendant, has erected a *matam* on the seashore, close in front of *Agni Theertham* so as to catch the eye of the pilgrims soon after their holy bath in the *Theertham*. The construction of the *matam* was started in 1961 and the *Kumbabishekam* in the immediate presence of the *Acharya* was performed on April 28, 1963. On the top floor of the *matam* Adi Sankarachariyar's shrine has been installed with his four disciples, viz., Padmapathar, Sureswar, Hasthamalagar and Thodagachariar. Adi Sankarachariar's shrine is 8½ feet high weighing three tons and that of the disciples are 5½ feet high, each weighing two tons, all made of white marble stones. Besides, there are fourteen art works depicting puranic stories. Similarly, there are 14 art works in the floor next below. Around this *matam*, a library known as Saraswathi Mahal, Meditation Hall, *Padugai Mandapam* and a *Hanumar* temple have been built. In the meditation hall statues of Chaithanya Prabhu, Kabirdoss, etc. are found. *Durvathasa Mandapam* is the most interesting building as it contains the exact replica of the twelve *Jothir Lingams* and the towers of those temples. The whole is a monumental work of the present *Acharya* in remembrance of the Adhi Sankarachariar's visit to Rameswaram.

Rameswaram is a sub-port. Fishing is a thriving industry. Pearls and chanks are caught between the north of Rameswaram and Katcha Theevu. Considerable trade is done in palm leaf handicrafts, toys, chank and sea-shell, varieties of beads, etc.

An Inshore fishing Survey Station has been established in Rameswaram. This station along with the boats of Indo-Norwegian Project are systematically surveying the area around Ramanathapuram coast and have located a number of potential fishing grounds, which are being exploited by the local fishermen. In addition to Silverbellies and Prawans, Skates and Rays, Perches, Sharks, Cat-fish, Seer fish, Jew-fish, Sabres-fish and Leather Jacket form good portion in the catches of the cast. A number of small ice plants, cold storage have been put up in Rameswaram by the Department of Fisheries.

There is protected water-supply and taps are provided in the streets. The town is electrified. Rameswaram is a terminus railway station. There are Post and Telegraph Office, a Panchayat Office, a Government Hospital, an Ayurvedic Dispensary, an Office of the Fisheries Department and a high school at this place.

Besides the railway retiring rooms, there are rest-houses of the *Devasthanam* rented out to the pilgrims. There are three rest houses with five suites and 10 rooms. Besides, there are 36 North Indian and South Indian choultries.

*Sakkottai (Puduvayal)* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 1,015) is situated eight miles north-east of Karaikkudi and lies on the border between Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur districts. It is well served by bus traffic. It is a railway station on the Karaikkudi—Arantangi railway line. The railway station is named as Kandanur—Puduvayal as it is a common railway station to both Kandanur and Puduvayal, the distance between them being only one mile.

Two revenue villages, namely, Sakkottai and Palayur have been constituted into a Panchayat called Puduvayal. Only one ward of the Panchayat belongs to Palayur village, the rest lie in Sakkottai revenue village.

This portion of the country was originally called as Sakkai Nadu full of Veerai tree forest. One Chola King by name Kandan built a temple and a fort here. The place was therefore called Sakkai Kottai which later became to be pronounced as Sakkottai.

*Veerasekaran (Siva) Umayambigai* temple is famous in these parts. Legend ascribes that one Veeran, a hunter while digging the earth for roots, struck a *Lingam* and blood-oozed out of it by the injury caused by the spade. On seeing it he swooned. His wife who came in search of him found him unconscious and having understood the cause, prayed *Lord Siva* for pardon. Her husband recovered and both began to worship the *Lingam*, thence forward. As days passed one Chola King by name Kandan who was suffering from leprosy came on a pilgrimage and was camping at the present place Kandanur. At the instance of *Siva's* behest in the hunter's

dream he entreated the King to construct a temple. Accordingly, the King constructed the temple and worshipped *Siva*. In consequence, his leprosy was cured. He also constructed a reservoir in front of the temple and it is still known as Cholan Tank. *Rama* is said to have worshipped the *Lingam*. By worshipping the God, success in all matters is said to be assured. The temple is under the management of Sivaganga Samasthanam. The *Asthabandana Kumbabishekam* was performed on February 10, 1960. There are inscriptions in the temple. One special feature is that boiled rice is offered to God instead of raw rice as in other places. Annual festival is held in June for ten days. It is an important festival. Besides, there are *Oyyavanda Amman* temple *Nagara Kailasa Vinayagar* temple belonging to *Nagarathar* community, two *Vishnu* temples and two Christian churches.

Being adjacent to Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli districts this is a big wholesale trade centre in rice. There are as many as 12 rice mills. Rice is exported to the Kerala State from here. Before the opening of the Tiruchirapalli-Manamadurai railway line extensive trade was done at this place. After the formation of the railway line, Karaikkudi assumed importance and eclipsed this place.

This place is famous for temple architects called "*Stapathis*" employed in large numbers in temple construction in other states. This place is equally famous for metal industries (household utensils) and silver and gold smiths. One private ever-silver industry is flourishing well. There is one mop industry. The special brush for polishing ever-silver and other metals are produced here. Cloth and leather are the main materials used in the mop industry. A Tailoring Unit has been opened recently.

It is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union of its name. It has a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Union Office, a Post Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Telephone Exchange Office, a Child Welfare and Maternity Centre and one high school.

There are a travellers' bungalow and a *chatram* belonging to Nattukkottai *Nagarathars* where Brahmins are fed freely.

A weekly private market run by the *Nagara'har* community is held on every Wednesday. Vegetables, foodgrains, fish, dry fish, groceries, pottery, hen and mutton are sold here.

Thirukalar Andavar also known as Veerappasamy was born at this place about 100 year's ago. He renounced the world when he was of 15 years. He established a *Vedanta Madam* at this place. He went to Thirukalar a place 3 miles from Tiruthuraipoondy, and constructed a *Siva* temple. After the temple came into existence, a village grew around it. He passed away about 40 years ago. *Pooja* is performed to the *Samadhi* on a grand scale.

This place is also famous for Tamil poets and vidwans. Pulavar Mani was a noted poet. S. P. Veerappa was a Karnataka Sangeetha Vidwan.

*Saligramam* (Paramagudi Taluk—Population: 3,740) lies 12 mile north-east of Paramagudi. Buses are plying during hot season. As



only earthen road has been laid buses cannot negotiate it during rainy season when the road becomes slushy.

While digging the Gangai Urani in the village a *Shaligramam*, the sacred stone was found in the reservoir. The village was named after it as Saligramam.

There is an old *Siva* temple in the village with inscriptions dedicated to *Varaguneswarar* and *Tirukamakodeeswari*. It is a sub-temple to the *Nainarkoil* temple. It is said to have been built during the period of Varagunapandyan.

It has a handsome Roman Catholic Church called "Lady of Good Health" where festival is conducted on a small-scale during May. The priest, who is in charge of the church supervises over 50 villages having about 5,000 Catholics. There is a Convent consisting of ten sisters who run an orphanage for about 120 inmates who are given education up to 8th standard. It was started in 1940. Besides, there is a Protestant Church and two mosques in the village.

It has a big irrigation tank with its bund stretching to six miles.

The village has a Panchayat Office from 1956, A Departmental Sub-Post Office, a District Board High School and a Rural Dispensary. There is a village *chauadi*.

*Sarugani* (Tiruvadanai Taluk-Population: 1,104) lies on the Devakottai-Tiruvadanai and Madurai-Tondi roads. It is 49 miles west of Madurai, 10 miles south-east of Devakottai and 13 miles north-west of Tiruvadanai. Buses are running through this village to all important places.

This is the headquarters of the Sarugani ecclesiastical District. This place is important for its old church built in 1751 by Father De-Rossi, an Italian Missionary. Rev. Father De-Rossi first settled at Maraneri east of the present Sarugani when a quarrel arose among the several castes of Maraneri village and forced Rev. Father De-Rossi to leave the place. About the year 1750 he came to the place which is now called Sarugani and built there a church. Slowly the people of Maraneri came and settled round him. Towards the year 1780, Marudhu brothers made to the church of Sarugani for its maintenance the grant of the village. The donation deed on a copper plate is signed by the then Zamindar of Sivaganga, Peria Udaya Thevar, dated December 23, 1800 A.D. The priest in-charge at that time was Arulandarswami, who had come from Goa in 1788. An interesting anecdote is told regarding this grant. Once Marudhu was attacked by the Company forces. Nearing this village Marudhu had no other option except to request the Rev. Father to give him protection. The Rev. Father was then reading the Bible sitting on a big wooden box. He hid Marudhu in the box and evaded the Company forces who were pursuing Marudhu. Marudhu is said to have granted the village for the church as a token of his gratitude.

From 1774 to 1830, the church was under the Portuguese missionaries who were sent here from Goa. They were supported by the Portuguese Government. From 1836 onwards the Jesuits were put in-charge of propaganda. In about 1700 A.D. there was large scale conversions into Christianity and it is said that about 20,000 people were converted in a short period.

The new portion to the Church was added in 1929. The festival of St. Francis Xavier on 3rd December of each year is celebrated on a grand scale when nearly 3,000 people from neighbouring villages gather. The tomb of Rev. Father De-Rossi who is called as younger Francis Xavier or *Sinna Souriyar* in Tamil by the local Catholics is here.

Harijans and Nadars manufacture palm-leaf articles such as basket, mat, etc., for the local consumption. Palm-fibre ropes catering the local needs and bricks are also made here.

There are a Panchayat Union Ayurvedic Rural Dispensary and a Higher Elementary School at this place.

Weekly market is held on every Tuesday.

*Sarukkupparai* (Srivilliputtur Taluk) is about 12 miles west of Srivilliputtur and 2 miles from Shenbagatope. This can be reached either by a bullock cart or by a jeep as there is no regular road.

The name is derived from the nature of rock of the place. River *Payanar* which flows over this rock marks it as a picturesque water fall of about 20 to 30 feet over the cool and natural smooth slope of the rock which admits sliding causing merriment and amusement. There will be supply of water for six months in a year and is very suitable for holiday resort during summer for the residents of Srivilliputtur and nearby places. Often picnics are held here. A visit to Shenbagatope is always combined with a bath here. It is enjoyed by slipping down on the slope of the little rock along the flow of the stream.

*Sattur* (Sattur Taluk—Population 15,759) is the headquarters of the Taluk. It is situated on the trunk road from Madurai to Tirunelveli on the north bank of *Vaipar*. This town is 16 miles south from Virudhunagar, 12 miles east of Sivakasi and 14 miles north of Koilpatti. Buses ply in all directions from this place. Southern Railway passes through Sattur and all express trains stop at this station. The railway line was opened on January 1, 1876.

The name Sattur is said to be a corruption of Sathanur. The place was formerly a forest and there was a *Sathan* temple in it. *Sathan* temple is also known as a *Ayyanar* temple. A small village sprang near the temple and it came to be called as Sathanur after *Sathan*. In process of time it turned out to be Sattur.

Sattur was the centre of a Zamin of great antiquity. Shajahan (1627-1658), Emperor of Delhi, established his relationship with the South through his chieftains and governors. One of his chieftains had built a *chatram* at Sattur and named it after Shajahan. Chatrapatty village was endowed to the *chatram*. A mosque was also built at Sattur. The income derived from the village was distributed to the local temple, mosque and the *chatram* for their maintenance.

The river *Vaipa* collects the water of many streams rising in Srivilliputtur Taluk and in South Madurai. It is crossed by the trunk road and two pucca bridges have been built over these streams. Close to Sattur, a bridge of about 150 yards long has been constructed by the railway. The river is in full floods only during the north-east monsoon. In the year 1933 unprecedented floods came inundating the whole town, flooding Government offices and other buildings. This was the most severe flood recorded so far.

The water in the wells in the town is brackish and apt to fall in the hot weather. Town people drink water taken from the springs of the river. The Panchayat Board has provided protected water supply at a cost of rupees 9 lakhs. Underground drainage scheme at a cost of rupees 5 lakhs is under execution.

There is an old *Venkatachalapathy* temple in the town. It is 191 feet long east to west and 102½ feet broad north to south. There is a *Mandapam* in front of the temple called '*Kolu Mandapam*' 102½ feet by 79 feet. The temple is surrounded by a large compound wall with an entrance facing east. Between the temple entrance and the *Mandapam* mentioned above there is a permanent shed 102½ feet by 24½ feet. There is a tradition that the founder of this temple was one Vaishnavite who on his way from Tirupathy to his place south of Sattur, installed the God *Tiruvengkatachalapathy* at this place in deference to the wishes of God. Gifts and grants were made by the Zamindars of Ettayapuram and Gollappatty. There are inscriptions in this temple. Festivals are held in this temple in the month of *Ani* and *Chithirai*.

There are temples dedicated to *Pillaiyar*, *Subramanyaswamy*, *Siva*, *Premikka Iyyanar*, *Hanumar*, *Mariamman*, *Badrakaliamman* and *Nondai Karuppasamy* in the town. Festivals are held in *Panguni* and *Chithirai* in the *Mariamman* temple and *Badrakaliamman* temple respectively. There are also 3 churches and one mosque.

Sattur is an industrial town. There are 120 match factories in the town. This place is also famous for nib factories and there are thirty-six factories of them. Considerable trade in cotton is made in this place. There are five ginning factories and one cotton press factory. There is lithography printing press and seven ordinary printing presses. Large wholesale business is transacted in chillies, black gram and coriander.

Sattur is a taluk headquarters. A Ta'uk Office, a Sub-Treasury Office, a District Agricultural Office, an Office of the Divisional Engineer (Highways), an Office of the Deputy Superintendent, Central Excise, a District Munsiff's Court, a Sub-Magistrate's Court, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, an Assistant Engineer's Office for Special Minor Irrigation Programme, an Assistant Engineer's Office (Highways), an Assistant Engineer's Office (Rural Water Supply), a Police Circle inspector's Office, a Post-Office with telegram and telephone communications and a Police Station are located in this town.

There are two boys' high schools, one girls' high school, one Basic Training School and a Government Hospital with 30 beds.

The town can boast of an old Coronation Recreation Club, Officer's Club, Lion's Club and a Madhar Sangam.

A weekly market is held on every Saturday.

*Sayalkudy* (Mudukulattur Taluk—Population: 4,098) lies 18 miles south of Kamudi, 18 miles south-west of Mudukulattur and 36 miles east of Aruppukkottai. Buses are plying to this place. It is nine miles from the District border.

This village is situated on the once famous Rani Mangamma (1689–1706) Salai (Road) leading to Rameswaram. It was consequently called Salaikudy meaning road village. Sayalkudy is said to be a corruption of Salaikudy. The present highways-road is laid upon the above said Mangammal Salai.

There is a *Siva* temple at this place. There is a tiny church and also a mosque.

It was the headquarters of a Zamin Taluk during the Ramannathapuram Zamindari administration. It was also the seat of Melmandai Zamindar. Being close to the sea, fishing is the chief occupation. Salt is also manufactured. Palm fibre is exported from this place. Palm-gur is manufactured and there is a co-operative society for it. There is also an Oil Manufacturing and Sales Co-operative Society. A Milk Supply Society is also functioning in the village.

It has a Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Khadi Depot sub-centre, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station and a high school.

The Forest Department is maintaining a rest house which is not electrified.

*Seithur* (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population 11,685) is 13 miles west of Srivilliputtur and is on the Madurai-Tenkasi High Road. This place is served by bus. The nearest railway station is Rajapalayam which is seven miles east of Seithur.

Seithur means Sethupathi's village. It is the headquarters of a Zamindar. The Zamindar of this place is a Marava by caste belonging to the sect known as "Menattu Manniya Kurukula

Vananga-Mudi Pandarathar" (*Pandaram* meaning Treasury). Tradition says that Kancheepuram was the original home of the family of the Zamindar. The founder of the family was one Veeramani Thevar. He was a treasury guard under Veeracholan who reigned over Chola Kingdom at Kancheepuram. After his death his sons succeeded to the post. But having incurred the displeasure of the king they left the job and came to Madurai after remaining for some time at Thanjavur. At Madurai Chinnaya Thevar, leader of the group won the appreciation of Parakrama Pandyan and was appointed as one of the guards of the palace. In about 1582 A.D. the portion around Seithur was occupied by Thiruvannatha Nayak a lieutenant of Raja of Panthalam. At the behest of Parakrama Pandyan, Chinnaya Thevar proceeded against the usurper with an army. At Seithur he constructed a fort, afterwards known as "Chinnayan Kottai" and drove away the Naick. There upon the Pandyan appointed Chinnaya Thevar as a Thisaikavalan. Since then from 1582 A.D. he became a Poligar of Seithur. The present Zamindar is the fiftieth in succession. The East India Company granted the title of Zamindar and the Sannad-I-Milkiyat on July 15, 1803 to Sevuga Pandya Thevar who was the forty-seventh Polegar in succession.

The present Zamindar Sri Sevuga ascended the *gadi* on February 3, 1902. The Zamindars of a Seithur are known for their literary pursuits and administration, always surrounded by Tamil scholars and musicians. The third decent Chinnaya Thevar was a Scholar in Tamil. Sundaradoss Thevar, sixth in succession composed "*Annam Vidu Dhootu*" (அன்னம் விடு தூது) Sundaradoss Thevar, 49th in succession composed a *Pathigam* on God. He patronised Annamalai Kavirayar author of *Kavadichindhu* (காவடி சிந்து) and Muthusamy Bagavathar, a great musician. The present Zamindar is an eminent artist in "*Kanjira*".

The biggest building in Seithur is the palace. The old palace was pulled down and remodelled by the present Zamindar. There is an old *Siva* Temple with inscriptions at Seithur enshrining *Sulochaneswarar* and *Sountharanayagi*. The annual festival is held on *Panguni Uttiram*.

There are a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Post-Office and a high school.

There is a choultry known as Madunarvelagam Choultry where all classes of people were fed freely. After the abolition of Zamin this is not functioning.

Sundaradoss Thevar the father of the present Zamindar built an anicut on the spot where the old fort stood and named it as Chinnayankottai Anai.

There are some weavers in Muthusamyapuram one of the suburb of Seithur. This place was founded in about 1829 A.D. by Muthusamy Thevar, forty-eighth in succession. It is inhabited by Saliars.

Skillful carpenters and blacksmiths are found in Seithur.

**Sevvalpatti** (Sattur Taluk—Population: 2,577) lies 12 miles south of Sivakasi, and 18 miles south-west of Sattur. A link road of one mile and 3 furlongs branches off to Sevvalpatti from Thulukkan-kurichy situated about 11 miles from Sivakasi on the Sivakasi to Kalugusandai road. It can be reached by bus. The nearest railway station is Sivakasi on the Madras-Trivandrum railway line.

The name is from *Shevel* in Tamil meaning red and *Patti* also in Tamil meaning village. The soil is red and so the village was called as red village. It was a Zamindary village. All its development was due to the activities of the family of the Zamindars who resided here.

The Sevvalpatti Zamin formed part of an ancient and impartible estate called Elayirampannai Palayam. It was acquired in 1803 by Swami Nayakkar I. Another portion of the Elayirampannai estate was acquired by the Zamindar of Ettaiyapuram who incorporated it with his estate. He hails from a village called Bellampudur in Andhra State. Consequently the family name of the Zamindar is Bellamvaru. There is a Bellampudur 3 miles from Madhurantakam in Chingleput District where Kammavar Nayakars is said to be the dominant population still.

The village has an *Aranmanai Vinayagar* temple and a *Kali Koil*.

There are a match factory and a Co-operative Brick Society. Thick white khaddar is woven at this place. About 40 handlooms are at work. Snuff is manufactured by three producers. The village was electrified in March, 1963.

A Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary, a Post-Office and a high school are located here.

**Shenbagatope** (Srivilliputtur Taluk) is 8 miles west of Srivilliputtur connected by a country track negotiably by bullock carts and jeeps and with difficulty by lorries. It is picturesquely situated at the foot of the Western Ghats which from the northern boundary of Srivilliputtur Taluk. The tope is evergreen and is considerably cooler than any other place in the District. It is called the beauty spot of Srivilliputtur Taluk.

This tope comprises of 243.98 acres enblock in one Survey No. 121 of Inam Nachiarkoil village. 1,245 coconut trees, 1,249 mango trees, 369 jack trees, 119 lime trees, 1,193 tamarind trees, 3,465 palmyra trees, 327 white cotton trees (Elavam), 619 wooden apple trees, 12 date palm trees, 31 nelli trees (*Phyllanthus embillica*), 47 naval trees, 27 koyya trees, and 7 kamugu trees, teak, sandalwood and other fuel wood trees attract this place as a picnic centre. Two jungle streams by name *paiyanar* flow into this tope. The patta stands in the name of *Nachiar*, the Presiding deity at Srivilliputtur. The tope fetches lease amount of Rs. 15,500 annually for the *Devasthanam*. On the western border of the tope a masonry structure with a storey has been constructed known as Elephant Shed (Yanaikuche) in Tamil. Ground floor is used for stay during day time and the upper

storey during nights. A ditch surrounds this building to prevent elephants and wild animals crossing it. This building was constructed for driving away elephants which descend down this place with a destructive motive. This Tope is infested with wild animals and good games can be had here like elk, deer, etc. Occasionally tigers also make their appearance. A scheme has been sanctioned for planting more fruit bearing trees, viz., 5,000 coconuts, 3,000 mangoes, 1,000 limes, 1,000 jacks, etc., with ten more wells and oil pump-sets.

On the border of the tope Harijan Welfare Department has provided a colony for the hill tribes called Paliyars. The colony consists of 12 apartments.

*Singampunari* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population: 6,471), situated in the southern bank of the *Palar* lies on the Karaikkudi-Dindigul road, 27 miles west of Karaikkudi and 14 miles west of Tiruppattur. From Madurai it is 45 miles south-west. Buses are plying to this place from Dindigul, Karaikkudi, Tiruppattur and Madurai. The village is on a small mount called Sanjeevi hill, said to be a remnant dropped out of Sanjeevi hill carried by *Hanuman* of epic *Ramayana* to Lanka during the mythological war between *Rama* and *Ravana*.

Singapunari is a corruption of Singampidari. It is from *Singam* meaning Lion and *Pidari* proper name of the deity. The local deity *Pidari Anuman* has lion as per celestial vehicle and the village has taken its name from this.

This place abounds with cocoanut groves. It is spread over an area of 1,250 acres containing about a lakh of trees. There is Government Coconut Nursery at this place. The coconut plantation has given rise to coir industry. A Coir Workers' Industrial Co-operative Society has been formed with branches at Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai. The Society consists of 98 members with a working capital of Rs. 30,000. Annual production is Rs. 30,000 and the annual sales is Rs. 35,000. Husk is locally produced. Mhote ropes, ordinary ropes, door mats, chain mats are some of the varieties made here. Pudukkottai, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirapalli are among the chief markets of this society. Besides there are about 30 private producers. As sufficient raw material is not available locally *Kocham* (thin variety of rope) is secured from Kanyakumari District and Kerala State and converted into stout ropes, etc.

A Carpentry Co-operative Society is functioning in this village with 50 members and a working capital of Rs. 12,000. Annual production is worth Rs. 35,000. Logs are obtained from Pollachi and all kinds of furniture are manufactured here.

There are also a Building Co-operative Society and a Co-operative Milk Supply Society. The chief crop of this place is groundnut. Nearly 1,50,000 bags of groundnut is produced annually. Whole-sale business is done and merchants from Virudhunagar, Pollachi, Palani and other places resort to this place for purchasing. There are 15 oil mills which take advantage of the availability of raw material. Next to groundnut, cotton is the main crop. Production is nearly

1,000 candies. Chillies are also grown largely. There is a regulated market for groundnut, chillies and cotton at this place and it is controlled by a Committee with 8 non-official members and 3 official members. There is also a Co-operative Marketing Society. Loans are advanced on 75 per cent of the cost of the produce on paddy, groundnut, ragi and cumbu. There are three godowns. The Society is dealing in fertilisers. It is running a Groundnut Decorticator established at a cost of about Rs. 50,000, which is being used by members of the society on the payment of hire charges. It is functioning for the past 2 years.

The *palar* river water is harnessed by constructing a bed dam in this place at a cost of Rs. 1,12,000 so as to benefit an additional area of 1,816 acres.

There is a tailoring unit for women with twelve trainees.

*Sevugaperumal* temple is an important one under the management of Sivaganga Devasthanam. The Amman is called *Pidariamman*. Festival is held in the month of June for 10 days. There is also a Mosque and a Church.

It is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union. There are a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Post, Telegraph and Telephone Office, a Food Production Section Office, Veterinary Dispensary with Artificial Insemination Sub-Centre, Panchayat Union Dispensary and a high school. This village is covered by protected water supply.

Weekly market is held on Thursdays. Vegetables, groceries and cattle are sold here.

*Sippiparai* (Sattur Taluk—Population: 2,043) lies 16 miles south-west of Sattur. The nearest Railway Station is Kovilpatti which is 8 miles southwards. It is connected by regular bus service to Sattur and Kovilpatti.

The name is from a hillock of its name, about 100 feet high situated on about 7 acres of land close to the habitation on the south of the village. Though the hillock is of a rounded height it contains a number of layers hence it was called as Sippiparai in Tamil.

It is a border village of the District. The hills surrounding this village provide good shelter for the border criminals.

There is a *Vishnu* temple on the top of the hillock. Besides there are temples dedicated to *Ayyanar*, *Kaliyamman* and *Pillaiyar*. There is also one Church in the village.

There are some stone masons grinding stones, stone pillars, stone tubs and other utility articles of stone are made here.

It has a Panchayat, a Post-Office, a high school, a Co-operative Society, a Maternity Centre and a Ginning Factory.

A special variety of ferocious dogs useful for hunting is bred here.



There is one Village *chavadi*.

*Sivaganga* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population: 15,642) the headquarters of the Taluk, lies 30 miles south-east of Madurai and 11 miles north of Manamadurai. Number of buses ply from this place to all places. It is a railway station on the Tiruchirappalli—Manamadurai chord line. The Madras—Dhanushkodi Boat Mail stops at this place.

The founder of Sivaganga was Sasivarna Peria Udaya Thevar in 1733 who was the first king of Sivaganga dynasty. He was a chieftain of Nalukottai. When Bhavani Sankara became the Sethupathi, he drove Sasivarna Peria Udaya Thevar out of his Palayam. Sasivarna Peria Udaya Thevar, while passing through the jungle west of Sivaganga met a Sage by name Sathappier who was performing *tabas* (Meditation) under a jembool tree near a spring called Sivagangai. Sasivarna prostrated before the sage and narrated his tale. The sage sympathised with him and asked him to bathe in the spring, then he gave him sacred ashes and whispered a certain *mantram* in his ears and advised him to go to Thanjavur and kill, by virtue of the *mantram*, a ferocious tiger which was kept by the Raja especially to test the bravery of men and so obtain his friendship. There at Thanjavur he became acquainted with Kattaya Thevan, a refugee like himself. He overcame a ferocious tiger in single combat. The Raja was delighted with his prowess and appointed him as his personal attendant. A distant relative of the Raja who was his Dalavoy plotted to kill the Raja by driving a ferocious bull at the Raja while he was witnessing a bull fight. When the bull charged at the Raja, Sasivarna slayed the wild bull for the destruction of which the Raja offered to help Sasivarna Thevar in his mission to invade Ramanathapuram. The king of Thanjavur thereupon invaded Ramanathapuram and defeated Bhavani Sankara. The Raja after taking some territories for himself, parcelled out the remainder of the territories into five portions in 1733 and gave two portions to Sasivarna Udaya Thevar who later became the Raja of Sivaganga. The spring which Sathappier first met with was enlarged into what is now the *Teppakulam*. A palace was built near the tank and a town formed, called after the spring, Sivaganga. It is also said that the town got its name from a submerged 'Linga' shrine in the *Gangui* water of the tank opposite the palace. There is an other version for the origin of the name. The tiger killed by Sasivarna Udaya Thevar at Thanjavur was a *Sevvenga* (Red Tiger). In memory of it this place was called as Sevvangai which in process of time came to be known as Sivaganga a corruption of that word. The Sanskrit name for this place is Dhakshinakalipura.

This was the residence of the Zamindar of Sivaganga. The palace of the ex-rulers of Sivaganga is one of the biggest and oldest mansion. It was here that in 1798–1799 Chinna Marudhu gave asylum to Vira Pandia Katta Bomman of Panchalankurichi while defying the authority of the East India Company. The palace was constructed according to rules containing apartments, courtyard, chamber, etc. In the north-west of the palace is the long established

temple enshrining *Raja Rajeswari*, the family deity of the Raja's family, whose praise has been sung in immortal verses by *Papanasam Sivan*. The *kalasa* of the tower of the temple is gold hence it is called as *Thanga Kalasa Tower*. It was used as watch tower also. There is a swimming pool nearby. By closing the inlet for water this was used as a pavilion for displaying wrestling, boxing, games and other pastimes. Queens and other ladies could witness these games from the gallery without being seen by others. The upper series of the palace contains a narrow passage which could admit only one at a time leading to a chamber for hiding in times of emergency. From the chamber even a single person can keep at bay an attacking force of large numbers. This is the last fighting place when attacked by enemies. The ancient armoury house is situated adjacent to the *Raja Rajeswari's* temple. There is a black-marble slab mantap where rulers of *Sivaganga* used to be crowned. The palace has an outer wall of 18 feet high. The *Zamindari* was leased on May 23, 1887 by *Godayana Thevar* to Messrs. *R.G. Orr, Ryan and Stranack* for the discharge of his debts. Those lessees had built well furnished bungalows for their residence at the outskirts of *Sivaganga* town. They handed over these buildings to the *Zamindar* for a consideration in 1918. The *Zamindars* shifted to these buildings from the old palace. The old palace has been let out for rent and Government Offices are situated in it.

There are two *Siva* temples at this place. *Sree Viswanatha Sree Subramanya* temple, bigger of the two, is an important temple with inscriptions and copper plate *Sasanam*. The *Marudhu* brothers (1783-1801) originally built the *Thirugnana Subramanya* temple. One *Lakshmi Ammal*, a pious, poor Brahmin widow brought a *Lingam* from *Kasi (Banares)* some time before 1852 and installed it in the temple. She performed daily *pooja* from the alms collected from door to door. She also made village collection and constructed many shrines, the outer wall of the temple and other buildings. Stone statue of *Lakshmi Ammal* may be seen in the temple. The descendents of *Lakshmi Ammal* handed over the temple to the *Raja* of *Sivaganga* for maintenance through a registered deed, dated 26th February 1883. Since then the temple is known as *Sree Viswanathar Sree Subramanya* temple. After renovation and repairs the *Kumbabishekam* was performed on 27th June 1963. There is a car for the temple. The annual festival is held during April. This temple is treated as a sub-temple to the temple at *Tiruppuvanam*. In the other *Sasivarneswarar* temple situated near the bus stand no festival is held. The *Raja* of *Sivanga* is the hereditary trustee of these two temples. There are other small temples, viz., *Perianayaki Amman* temple, *Perumal* temple, *Pillaivayal Kaliamman Koil*, *Velayuthaswamy Koil* and *Gowri Vinayagar Koil*. There is big *teppakulam* (Tank) in front of the palace. It is almost a perfect square with a parapet wall all around. Its sides are faced with granite. Flight of steps run down to the water edge. This graceful tank adds to the splendour of the town.

The Karthigai Thevar Reservoir supplies the drinking water for the major portion of the town. The holy shrine of *Hanuman* stands on the bank of the reservoir guarding over it.

There are a Protestant Church, a Catholic Church and a mosque at this place.

Though Sivaganga is a Panchayat there are as many as 38 offices situated in it. Important among them are the offices of Revenue Divisional Officer, Tahsildar, Sub-Treasury, Panchayat Union Sub-Registrar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Divisional Engineer (H. & R.W.), Divisional Engineer (Food Production), Assistant Director of Fisheries, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Divisional Engineer (Electricity), Post Office combined with Telegraph and Telephone, Police Station, and Offices of the Tahsildar for Agricultural Income-tax, Dewan of Sivaganga Estate and Devasthanam, Sub-Judge, District Munsif, Judicial Sub-Magistrate, Assistant Director of Industries, District Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Assistant Engineer, Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, etc. There are two hospitals of which one is solely intended for the use of women and children.

Raja Doraisingam Memorial College was started in August 1947, as a second grade college. Now it is a first grade college. It is named after the paternal grandfather of the present minor Rajah. It is managed by a Committee of which the Raja is the hereditary President. There is a Rajah's High School for boys and a District Board High School for girls. There is a travellers' bungalow with 2 suites of rooms.

Weekly market is held on every Wednesday.

Sivaganga is the birth place of poet Sudhananda Bharathi, who is known to the world over as Kaviyogi Maharishi. He was born on 11th May 1897. His early career was marked by a sense of devotion to the national cause. He has contributed in a large measure to the development of Tamil literature and histrionics. He has travelled widely, in Europe and South East Asia where he usually lectured on Yoga and the Vedic Culture of India.

Karpurasundara Pandian, B.A., a Vakil of Sivaganga was a pleader to the Courts of Wards till the year 1934. For a period of a year he was the President of the Union Board, 1925 to 1926 : and he was the member of the Taluk and District Boards during the years 1926 to 1931. He presided over the 3rd Provincial Agambadia Conference held in Madurai in 1931. He was the Secretary of the Agambadia Provincial Mahajana Sangam, an institution for the uplift of the Agambadia community in the Province. He was the Vice President of the Dravidian Association of Sivaganga and the President of the Local Cosmopolitan club.

Karpurasundara Pandian was an able writer on various subjects and interesting topics. An educative and interesting article about his researches in the History of Ancient Tamils appeared in the Malabar Quarterly Review<sup>1</sup>.

**Sivakasi** (Sattur Taluk—Population 30,690) is a Municipal town. It is situated 12 miles west of Sattur and 12 miles east of Srivilliputtur. It is 46 miles south-west of Madurai. It is a railway station on Madras-Trivandrum Southern Railway line. The Trivandrum Madras Express train stops at Sivakasi. Buses ply from Sivakasi in all directions and the State Express Bus running to Shencottah passes through the town.

The traditional account for the founding of Sivakasi is found in a stone inscription in the temple at Tenkasi. It is stated that Arikesari Parakrama Pandyan (1420—1462) constructed a temple at Tenkasi and went to Banares for fetching a *Lingam* for installation at Tenkasi. On his return he was unavoidably detained at Sivakasi which was a forest then. At the approach of the auspicious hour he installed the *Lingam* and constructed a temple at this place. The place takes its name from this incident. There is also another version. It is said that a Rishi by name Kasi-Kanda Parakrama Rishi, used to go to Banares and return by means of *Kavana Kuliga* and that one day he was detained at this place unavoidably. In answer to his prayer God *Siva* of Banares gave him 'dharsanam' at this place. Hence the name of the place as Sivakasi.

During the period of Nayaks, Sivakasi was the seat of a Governor. Tirumalai Nayak's brother Kumara Muthuveerappa Nayakkar was appointed as the Governor of Sivakasi in 1659 A.D. when Tirumalai was succeeded by his son Muthuveerappa Nayak alias Muthu Alagadri. It is now the headquarters of a Sub-Collector.

Sivakasi was a Panchayat Union till 1919. It was constituted as a Municipality on 1st October, 1920. Railway line through Sivakasi was laid in 1927. The town was electrified in 1938. A pilot scheme for water-supply at a cost of Rs. 33 lakhs was completed on 18th May 1960.

In 1874, Nadars tried to enter Madurai *Meenakshi* temple. They attempted to enter *Thiruttangal* temple in 1876. In 1895 the Nadars petitioned that they should be appointed as *Dharmakartha* of Sivakasi temple. The petition was rejected. In 1899 the Nadars claimed right of entry into the *Viswanathaswamy* temple but the Hindus objected to it. Organised attempts were made in all villages where Nadars were in good numbers. The feelings between Nadars and other Hindus become strained. On 26th April 1899, Sivakasi Nadars burnt 55 Maravar houses. As a reprisal, on 6th June 1899 it resulted in a big rioting and known as

<sup>1</sup> Source :—Madhva Rau, N., *Encyclopaedia of South India and Ceylon*, 1937-38, P-73.

the "Anti-Shana rioting of Sivakasi". The Maravars from all the parts of the taluks assembled here under the leadership of the notorious Vellaya Thevan and Ramachandra Thevan of Naduvipatty. Many houses of Nadars were looted and set fire also. As the local police was found insufficient to cope up with the situation, police from the neighbouring towns and Military from Trichinopoly were brought on 7th June 1899. Nineteen fifty eight persons were charge-sheeted, 552 were convicted and seven were sentenced to death. Punitive Tax was also levied to meet the expenditure of the Reserve Police Force. As a precautionary measure a special force was sanctioned and quartered on the outskirts of the town and the same was subsequently made permanent. Thus a Special Police Reserve Contingent-in-charge of a Deputy Superintendent happened to be located at Sivakasi.

Sivakasi is an important industrial town. It is famous for lithographic and offset printing, match and fireworks industries. Next to Sivakasi lithographic and offset printing is done only in Bombay. Sivakasi is equipped with gigantic machines satisfying mass production. Orders from all over India are received for multi-colour calendars, wall posters, labels, etc. There are about 35 off set and litho printing works in Sivakasi besides 25 ordinary printing presses. In and around Sivakasi there is a concentration of fire works manufacturing units, manufacturing crackers, sparklers, *chakkrams*, etc., besides factories manufacturing amorces and coloured matches. Most of the fire works, viz., crackers sparklers, *chakkrams*, fancy fire works, amorces, etc., consumed in India are supplied by Sivakasi. There are nearly 70 industries engaged in the manufacture of fire works. Sivakasi is equally well known in the production of matches. About 37 major industries are producing matches at this place. Industries engaged in the production of varnish are six, cutting presses eleven, stylish fans twenty, candle two, pin manufacturing three, ink manufactures six and splint and vaneerscutting three. There are number of other industries such as furniture, manufacture of cycle spare parts, playing cards, block making, etc.

Festivals in *Viswanathaswamy* temple and *Subramanyaswamy* temple are held in May, in *Badrakaliamman koil* it is held in April, *Mariamman Koil* in March and *Perumal Koil* in September. There are two mosques and two churches. One of these churches was built by Ragland, a Cambridge Wrangler, who came to India. It is known as Ragland Memorial Church. It is a majestic structure.

Sub-Collector's Office, Sub-Treasury Office, Panchayat Union Office, Post and Telegraph and Telephone Offices, Municipal Office, Superintendent of Central Excise Office, Electricity Sub-office, State Insurance Office, Sub-Registrar's Office, Police station, M.O.R. Office numbers 1 and 2, Assistant Commercial Tax Office, Deputy Commercial Tax officer's Office, Office of the Inspector of

Explosives, Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Circle Inspector of Police Office, Deputy Superintendent of Police Office, Office of the Inspector of Provident Fund, Fire Service are functioning in this town. There is a Ayya Nadar Janakiammal Trust College. There are two boys high school, one girls' high school, fifteen sports clubs in this town, three hospitals and child welfare and maternity centre. There are two choultries one named as Tottenham's Choultry and the other named as Tirunelvely Venkateswara Josier's *Chatram* and the latter choultry gives free boarding to the pilgrims. People who go to and return from Srivilliputtur used to halt there for the night in the choultries. There is a Municipal travellers' bungalow with two suits, besides a Municipal rest house. Nadar's Lodge maintained by Hindu Nadars Mahimai Fund is also available for tourists.

Weekly fair is held on Tuesdays.

*Sulakkarai* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population: 1,952) lies four miles south of Virudhunagar and 16 miles west of Aruppukkottai. About a mile west of the village habitation runs the Madurai-Tirunelveli High Road. Number of buses are running over this road. From the road point to the village, the distance has to be covered by walking. Town buses from Virudhunagar can be boarded at the railway station which is about half-a-mile north-west of the village.

*Sulakkarai* is derived from *Sulam* meaning "divine instrument" and *karai* meaning boundary in Tamil. The eastern boundary of the then Ramanathapuram Kingdom was called as *Kilakkarai* and the western boundary as *Sulakkarai*.

The Virudhunagar Industrial Estate is situated in this village. It was sanctioned by the Government in April 1961. The Industrial Estate consists of 15 units. It occupies a total area of 66.5 acres. The types of industries in the units are : (1) Tin containers unit, (2) Unit for manufacturing spare parts for textile mills, coach factory, automobile industry, (3) Wire nails unit, (4) Wood screws and wire drawing unit, (5) Shoe tags unit, (6) Sheet metal products unit, (7) Unit for stainless steel products, hospital equipments and sanitary fitting, (8) Electroplating, safety pins unit, (9) Unit for hair-grips, ridges, bed bolts, weights and builders, hardware, agriculture implements, mill spares and brass castings, (10) Unit panel pins, plastic and nylon buttons and (11) Unit for plastic polythene bags and tubings. There is also a Government Unit in it having a Government tool room shop.

There is a Government Industrial Institute, established under the scheme for the expansion of craft man training facilities in the Second Five-Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakhs. This was started in July 1956. There are six workshop units attache

to the administrative building and training is given in the six trades, namely, carpenter, wiremen, machinists, fitter, turner and moulder. The duration of the course is 18 months exclusive of six month in plant training in any industrial concern. Selection is made by a Selection Committee. Stipends are given to one-third of the sanctioned strength. The trainees are provided with free workshop clothing supplied on once in four months. The trainees are sent on educational tour. A dispensary, is attached to the institute and free medical aid is given. A hostel to accommodate 80 trainees at a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakhs has been constructed.

Virudhunagar Textile mills, Limited, belonging to Meenakshi Group of Mills, Madurai, is another major industry in this village which is famous for good coarse variety of grey gada. A steel re-rolling mill has been established just outside the border of the village.

Weaving is the chief cottage industry here. Besides, bricks and lime are manufactured here. Small village and cottage industries like carpentry and pottery, are flourishing.

There are minor temples like *Perumalkoil*, *Veeraaperumal Koil* and *Vinayagar* temple.

The village has a Panchayat Office. It is the richest panchayat in Aruppukkottai Panchayat Union, getting an annual income of Rs. 12,000 mainly due to the industrial estate, mills and other industries at this place. There are a Post and Telegraph office, a Police outpost and a Co-operative store. Electricity was supplied to the village on December 23, 1963.

*Srivilliputtur* (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population : 46,816) is the headquarters of the Taluk of that name and is situated 47 miles south-west of Madurai, 12 miles west of Sivakasi and six miles east of Rajapalayam. It is on the road leading to Tenkasi. It is an important station on the Madras-Trivandrum railway line. Bus routes radiate from this place to different centres.

Srivilliputtur is derived from *Sri* (Sanskrit holy) *Villi* (Tamil, bowman) *Puthu* (Tamil, new) and *Ur* (Tamil place), meaning holy bowman's new place. The origin is traced to a legend which has that two saints were born here on account of a curse as brother hunters by names Villi and Kandan. One day Kandan was killed by a tiger in a hunt. Villi not knowing this went in search of him and while asleep after a tiresome day he was informed in his dream by God the fate of his brother and was directed to build a town on this spot. A new town sprang up and it was known after the hunter as Villiputhur and since Andal was born here it came to be Srivilliputtur. This place is also known as *Nachiarkoil* meaning maiden temple referring to *Andal*. The Sanskrit name for the place is *Godapuri* meaning the earth born town referring to *Andal*, it is also called *Shridanuspora* meaning holy bow town.

This is one of the 108 sacred Vaishnavite places and eight amongst the eighteen in Pandian Kingdom. This place is famous for its old *Vishnu Vadabadrasaikoil* and the *Nachiarkoil*. *Vadabadrasaikoil* is on the north-east while the *Nachiarkoil* is to its south-west. *Vadabadrasaikoil* has a fine lofty tower of 192 feet high which is a landmark from almost from every part of the Taluk. This tower has developed a number of cracks in the recent years. It is said to have been built in the 8th Century. The tower showed the first sign of distress in the year 1904 when visible crack came to be noticed. The cracks have developed further since then and at present there are about 25 cracks starting from the foundation and running up to varying heights. About 16 cracks are found on the northern part of the tower. The width of the cracks ranges from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the wider cracks are concentrated in the north-west corner of the tower which has settled about six inches more than the other side. The first cracking must have been due to mild seismic disturbances, due to cyclone and due to heavy rains at some time or other. Some strengthening was done 30 years ago by putting cutstone supporting. The cracks that are now seen must be partly due to settlement and partly due to the deterioration of the super-structure frame work subsequent to the initial damage by seismic disturbance, cyclone, high winds and rains. The whole tower is supported by timber frame work of teak wood (normal life of a teak wood is 100 years) roughly finished, joined and placed in position nearly 1,300 years ago. The foundation exposed that it was only 7 feet 5 inches for such a lofty super-structure of 192 feet, a marvel indeed. There was no evidence from the foundation of either settlement of sheer cracks that could be linked with cracks either in the substructure or in the superstructure. Decision has been taken to set right the tower at a cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs.

*Vadabadrasyananar* temple enshrines, *Perialwar*, *Nammalwar*, *Udayawar* alias *Koil Annan*, and the Lord *Vishnu*. The *Vishnu* temple consists of two floors. In the ground floor is *Narasinga*. The steps for the upper storey is on the southern side. The steps first lead to *Gopala Vilasam* containing beautiful wooden sculptures. *Perumal* is in a lying posture. The age of this temple is not known. But the *Andal* temple is said to have been built in A.D. 788 where *Perialwar*'s residence seems to have been existed. In the fifteenth century this temple was renovated and repaired by *Mavali Vanathi Rayar*. The pillars in the *kodimaram Mandapam* are the most celebrated feature of the temple. They are single block stones and each pillar is composed of an image life-like and highly elaborate in design. *Venu Gopalan*, *Visvakarma*, *Dancing Girl*, *Jalandar*, *Mohini*, *Goddess Sakti*, *Agora Veerabadran Saraswati* *Sree Rama*, *Lakshmanan*, *Manmadan*, *Nirthamuga Veerabadran*, *Guhan*, *Gandeeban*, *Karnan*, *Sathagi*, *Oorthuvamuga Veerabadran*, *Rathi* are the sculptures on the pillars. The walls of the inner *Prakaram* contains the paintings of the



shrines of the 108 sacred *Vaishnava* temples. Inside the temple there is a well, known as mirror well in which one can see one's image reflected on the still water. The sanctum sanctorum enshrines *Andal Rajamannar* and *Garudalwar* in the order from south to north. Between the *Nachiar* temple and the *Vadabadrasyayanar* temple there is the flower garden said to have been laid out by *Perialwar* alias *Vishnu Sitthar* father of *Andal*. In the middle of the garden stands *Tirupura Mandapam*. *Andal* was born in the *Nakshatram* Puram. Hence the *Mandapam* was named after the planet. This is the birth place of *Andal*, the divine consort of the Lord. There are a number of inscriptions in the temple from A.D. 1098 to A.D. 1568. The chief festival of the temple is celebrated during the month of *Adi*.

The massive car of this temple deserve mention. It is 43 feet by 36 feet and 35 feet height of undecorated and 75 feet on decoration. This was made by *Vanamamalai Jeer* during the year *Kollam* 1025, i.e., about 113 years ago. Nearly 3,000 people are required to drag it. A similar car is said to be in *Tiruvarur*.

The reservoir known as *Tirumukkulam* is the tank in which *Andal* observed *margali* festival during her life. The water of the tank is sanctified by *Ganga*, *Yamuna* and *Saraswati* hence the name *Mukkulam* meaning three tanks. On this bank is situated *Ennal-kappu Mandapam* with an endowment at *Madras* fetching a rent of Rs. 3,000 annually. This amount is spent for performing *Neeratal* festival for *Andal* for which a special oil called *Andal Thailam* is prepared and distributed to the pilgrims as *prasadam*. There is a *Hanumar* temple near this reservoir.

One another special feature of the *Perumal* temple is a class of people known as *Arayar*, descendants of *Nathamunigal*, recite commentary of *Divya Prabandam* in a dance pose as is done in *Srirangam* for 10 days during day time immediately before *Vaikunta Ekadasi* and for 10 days during nights after it.

There is a small temple to *Krishnaswamy* on the way near railway station.

In *Madavur Vilagam*, a suburb of *Srivilliputtur*, which is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from *Srivilliputtur*, there is a fine pagoda and tower dedicated to *Siva* known as *Vaidyanathaswamy Koil*. This temple also contains stone inscriptions. Annual car festival is held in May.

There are one C.M.S. Church, an R.C. Church and a mosque. In 1882 Rev. Ragland of England belonging to C.M.S. Mission served in these parts and established Christianity and a C.M.S. High School. He built the C.M.S. Church in 1906.

An old palace of the *Tirumalai Nayak* of *Madurai* has been partly converted into a Taluk Office and Sub-treasury and partly into District Munsif' Court. Similar to other palaces, here also there are massive pillars with huge vaulted domes.

Pennington Library is one of the attractions in the towns. It owes its existence to Sri Saravanamuthu Pillai who happened to be the Tahsildar here in about 1878, rendering the institution self-supporting by setting up shops in the market. The Library and the market were named after Pennington, the then Collector. There are 6,000 volumes, a number of dailies and periodicals. A new building for the Library and the auditorium at a cost of about a lakh of rupees was opened on September 20, 1962.

Handloom weaving is a predominant industry in Srivilliputtur. There are at present (1964) no less than fourteen weavers' co-operative societies and production and sales societies. This is one of the largest centres for weaving and dyeing in the Ramanathapuram District. There is a Ramanathapuram Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited with an authorised capital of Rs. 45 lakhs and paid-up capital of Rs. 24.50 lakhs containing 12,096 spindles producing 40's and 60's quality yarn.

Metal industry is one of the cottage industries of this place with a co-operative society consisting of 113 members. All kinds of brass utensils, milk cans, brass pots, household utensils are some of the articles made here. Annual sales are about for Rs. 36,000. Hardware Workers' Co-operative Society with 100 members all of them blacksmiths, make agricultural implements, *momooties*, crowbars, buckets, pots, milk cans, jaggery pans, etc. This is also famous for hand-pounded rice for the production of which a Co-operative Society is functioning with 97 members. Srivilliputtur is a Charka Production Centre. Mariamman Oil Producers, Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society produces ghani oil worth about more than a lakh of rupees annually. It has 31 members. One Gramudyog Sales Emporium was started recently.

Seventy-five acres of *Nachiarkoil Devasthanam* land has been converted into Panangulam Co-operative Tennent's Farming Society with 30 members.

The Milk Supply Society having on rolls 1,087 members with a share capital of Rs. 17,810 has 12 branches and produces 1,300 measures of milk per day. Besides there is a Marketing Society for Uganda Cotton Producers.

Srivilliputtur is a Municipality having a number of offices. The chief among them are the Municipal Office Taluk Office, Panchayat Union Office, Post and Telegraph Office with a public call office, Police Station, Taluk and Town Sub-treasury, District Munsif's and Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court, Judicial Sub-Magistrates' Court, Office of the Inspector of Police, Deputy Commercial Tax Officer's Office, Office of the Forest Ranger, Office of the Assistant Engineer (Highways and Rural Works), Radio Supervisor, Assistant Engineer, Madras Electricity Board, Assistant Inspector of Labour, Agricultural Assistant Cotton Specialist Agricultural Research Assistant in cotton, Agriculture cotton classification Inspector, Agriculture Research Assistant in oil

seeds, Agranomist, Centre Khadi Officer, District Women Welfare Officer, Junior Engineer (P.W.D.), Senior Inspector of Schools for Malli and Srivilliputtur Ranges, etc. There is a Government hospital and a veterinary hospital. There are two high schools for boys and two high schools for girls and a Training School for girls for Higher and Secondary Grades. Saint Francis Xavier's Orphanage started in 1911 is on the outskirts of the town on the west is located in an area of 13 acres. For the benefit of the orphans a training school for girls was opened in 1930. There are about 300 orphans and destitute girls maintained with the Government grant.

For the convenience of the tourists and pilgrims there are (1) a Municipal travellers' bungalow with two suits, (2) an Inspection Bungalow with two suits, (3) a *Devasthanam* Guest House and (4) five private managed choultries.

Srivilliputtur is the birth place of Guru Gnanasambandar, the founder-saint of Dharmapuram Adeenam of the Thanjavur District. The present *Atheenakarthur* of Dharmapuram Mutt, Srilasri Thiru Kaliyapurambarai Thiru Dharmapuram Adeenam Srilasri Subramany Desika Gnanasambanda Paramacharya Pandara Sannathigal, donated Rs. 50,000 to name the Hindu High School after the Saint Gnanasambandar.

*Thangatchchimadam* (Ramanathapuram Taluk, Rameswaram Island-Population: 4,511) is a sea coast village on the northern shore of the Rameswaram Island. It lies five miles west of Rameswaram and three miles west of Pamban. It is a railway station between Pamban and Rameswaram and all trains stop at this place. As there is no proper road to this village, it can be reached only by train or by sea.

The following account is narrated in the Ramanathapuram Manual by Rajarama Rao regarding the origin of the name. Tiru-Udaya Thevar alias Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi (1711—1725) appointed his son-in-law, to whom he had given in marriage both the daughters born to his senior wife, to the command of Pamban Port with specific instructions to assist the pilgrims in their march across the channel and thence to Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram in whose affairs the Sethupathi was very much interested. Spurred by a desire to do social service and to leave his name behind in the sands of time the Sethupathi's son-in-law levied a small boat fee without the knowledge of Sethupathi from all those who crossed the channel either ways. From these collections he constructed a road of eight miles from Pamban to Rameswaram. Though this act was commended by the pilgrims, it enraged the Sethupathi as the levy was against his wishes. He therefore ordered to put his son-in-law to death against the pleadings of his two daughters. The two daughters committed *sati* with their husband. In memory of them, two choultries were raised on the ashes of the ladies on the road between Pamban and Rameswaram called *Akkal Madam* meaning elder sister's Madam and *Thingatchchi Madam* meanin

younger sisters' Madam. Akkalmadam, is in ruins and imbedded in sand about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Pamban. Another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles further east lies Thangatchchi Madam. A village grew round this place and it was named after the Madam.

*Ekanda Ramaswamy* temple with a most beautiful idol is now under renovation by a wealthy person of north India. The well inside the temple is called as *Amirthavapi Theertham*, a sacred water. Besides, there are sacred *theerthams* called *Ronavimochanam Theertham*, *Mangala Theertham* and *Villoorani Theertham*. The last named *Theertham* is on the sea shore, just inside the sea generally seen during low tide, fresh water bubbling out of sea water. *Subramanyaswamy* temple, *Pillayur* temple, *Thangachchiamman* temple, *Muniswamy* temple, *Karuppasamy* temple, *Mariamman* temple and *Kattumariamman* temple are the other temples in the village. There are two churches and a convent. Three days festival in the month of *Adi* is held in Sandya Royappan Church when about 1,500 people would assemble.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Post-Office and Telegram Office, a Board High School, a Maternity Centre and an Ice Factory.

There is a *chatram* in which the Board High School is located.

Christians and Muslims predominate this place. Fishing is done on a large scale. About 300 boats are owned by the residents. Tamarind, drumsticks (முருங்கை மரம்), *thazhampoo* (தாழம்பூ) are plentiful and are exported to mainland.

*Thulukkapatti* (Sattur Taluk—Population: 1,518) situated on the northern bank of *Arjuna* river lies seven miles north of Sattur and 10 miles south of Virudhunagar on the Madurai-Tirunelveli High Road between Virudhunagar and Sattur. The Madras-Tirunelveli railway line passes through this place and the Madras-Tirunelveli Express train stops at this station. The railway station is just a mile north of the village.

Thulukkan means Muhammadan and Patty means village, meaning Muhammadan village. It is said that once Muhammadans were foremost in this village and hence the place was called Thulukkapatti. They are said to have migrated to Avudayapuram a village two miles away from this place where there is a large concentration of Muslims.

This place is nowadays raising prominence on account of the location of a cement factory called Madras Cements Limited. It is the latest enterprise of Ramco group of Rajapalayam. The factory was established in 1957 with a manufacturing capacity of 600 tons of Portland Cement per day. The first stage of the cement factory was put up with a capital issue of Rs. 50 lakhs out of which the State Government have taken up shares to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs. The factory went into production on March 15, 1961 and as on September 30, 1962 the sales turnover amounted to

Rs. 59,04,908. The second stage of this programme started with a further issue of Rs. 70 lakhs worth of shares, out of which the State Government subscribed Rs. 35 lakhs from the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India have also substantially subscribed to this issue. The entire machinery of this second stage of 250/400 tons per day plant for the second stage have been supplied by Messrs. Skodass of Czechoslovakia and are under erection under the direct supervision of foreign experts. The second stage came into production from July 1963.

Tanning and brick industry is carried on, on a very limited scale. Frame filling and pasting of match boxes are done by a number of families for the match factories situated in the neighbouring villages.

Agriculture is the main stay of the people, cumbu, ragi, cholam, and cotton and chillies are grown.

The village has a Panchayat Office. Electricity was introduced in the village on November 14, 1963.

Government have constructed a colony of 22 houses for the Harijans.

*Tiruchuli* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population: 2,321) is a small village seven miles east of Aruppukkottai, the nearest railway station. There is regular bus service from Aruppukkottai. It is situated on the southern bank of the river *Gundar*. It was for long the headquarters of a taluk in Ramanathapuram Sethupathi's Estate. It is now the Sub-taluk of the Aruppukkottai Revenue Taluk and the seat of an Independent Deputy Tahsildar.

The origin of the name is traced to a legend. It is said that at the end of every *Yuga* a deluge will occur. Accordingly, at the end of *Dwaparayuga* a deluge occurred and the town was in danger of being drowned by floods. The king prayed God for protection. In response to his prayer, the God made a circular hole in the earth with his '*Sulam*' the trident of *Siva* and made all the water to sink through the hole and thus saved the town. Henceforth the place was called *Tiruchuli* in Tamil and *Avarthanapuram* in Sanskrit. '*Tiru*' in Tamil means holy and '*Chuzhi*' in Tamil means circle, meaning holy circle. This place is also known as *Tirushulapuram*, *Punnaivanam*, *Bhuvaneswaram* and *Kaleeswaram*.

Tradition has it that the marriage between *Ahalya* and *Gauthama* took place here. There is also another version that the curse of *Ahalya*, who was turned into a stone, was wiped out here.

The *Siva* temple at this place is well-built. The temple is of great antiquity and much resorted to by pilgrims. The temple is said to have been built by Pavana Pandian. It is one of the fourteen *Pandya* great temples. Its lord has been praised in classic Tamil

songs sung by Saints Sundaramoorthy and Manickavasagar. It is very largely sculptured and richly endowed. The God and Goddess bear the names of *Sri Dhana Nathar* alias *Tiru Meni Nathar* and *Sagaya Tirumeni* alias *Thunaimalai Amman*. Three annual festivals are celebrated here in April, July and August. The *stalapurana* of temple contains many legends which are given below as narrated in the Ramnad Manual by Raja Ram Rao.

In the first or *Krithayuga* (Golden age), the God and Goddess, were, it is stated called by the names of *Pralaya Ruthirar* and *Manickamalai* respectively, and that *Kasipah* and *Bhargava rishis* performed penances there under a *punnai* tree and obtained *mukthi* or heaven.

In the Second or *Threthayugam*, the God and Goddess bear the names of *Bhoomi Nathar* and *Mukthamalai* and *rishis Baradwaja* and *Parasara* performed penances there under a mango tree and obtained *mukthi*.

In the third or *Dwaparayuga*, they bore the names of *Kaliyana Sundarer* and *Swarnamalai* and *rishis Kousika* and *Thesla* performed penances there under a tree and obtained *mukthi*.

In the present or *Kaliyuga*, the above God and Goddess bear the names of *Sree Dhana Nather* alias *Tirumeni Nather* and *Sagaya Tirumeni* alias *Thunaimalai amman*. It is said that *rishis Gowtham* and *Nanthikeswara* performed penances there under an *arasu* tree and obtained *mukthi*.

There are nine sacred waters about the temples and also eight *Linga* in the eight corners of the temple.

It is said that in *Dwaparayugam*, *Brahmatbala Pandyan*, alias *Parakrama Pandyan*, while reigning at *Madurai*, went on patrol on a certain night through the whole town and met a Brahmin named *Dusseelan*, going along the street, with some property which he had stolen on account of a dancing girl and instantly cut off his head, without knowing him to be a Brahmin. No sooner the Brahmin was killed, than the sin of having caused the death of a Brahmin weighed heavily on the King's mind and made him quite uneasy. He therefore visited many places but all to no purpose, as the sin was by no means purged away. He at last chanced to come to *Tiruchuli* where immediately all was right with the sinner and he felt that his sin was cleared off. In the height of his joy, he looked about for the cause of his deliverance and heard from the heavens to the following effect. "He who bathed in the sacred *Sula Theertham* will be purged from all sins. The *Sula Theertham* was dug by *Rudra* with his *Sulam* (a weapon) and *Pathala Gangai* brought into it with a view that *Parvathi* (his consort) may bathe in it and worship *Bhoominather* whom even celestials regard and worship". As soon as the king heard this voice, he

searched for the tank and worshipped the *Linga* with unparalleled fervour and *Siva*, pleased with his adoration, appeared to him and ordered him to rebuild the temple and establish a town there, which the king did.

One Malini, the daughter of Hemaratha Rajah, a Chera king of Malayalam, was once playing with her mates in a garden, was seized by a devil. The king sent for a number of the magicians but none was able to relieve her from the evil spirit. Thereupon one Gopaula Rishi advised the king that the evil spirit would be got rid of, if Malini worshipped *Bhoomtnather*. The king accordingly made her bathe in the *Sulatheertham* and worship the *Linga* and she was freed from the evil spirit.

It is said that every year at the time of *Magham* in the month of (February and March) the water of the *Ganges* comes to this '*Sulatheertham*'.

One *Koundinnia Rishi* performed penances here and God pleased with it brought the *Ganges* from the Chaturmuga Hills and ordered her to flow before the *Rishi* who was making penances in a corner of the Tiruchuli town and enter the sea. She did accordingly. This river was hence called *Koundinnia* river, *Papahara Nadi* and *Gundar* and is considered most holy. At a place two miles to the east of the town, one *Kanva Rishi* dug a tank called *Kanvatheertham* and founded a *Linga* and made penances there for many years, when God appeared to him and blessed him that he would become his disciple in his next birth. This *Kanvatheertham* was therefore considered to be very holy.

There is a tank called *Kalai Nather Theertham* and also a temple (*Sivagalaveswarar*) founded by one *Galava Rishi* who performed penances at a place two miles north of the town, both of which are considered to be very holy on account of one *Chithra Dhawaja*, a *Gandharva*, who was cursed by *Muthgola Maha Rishi* to become a giant, for a thousand years for having eloped away with the *Rishi's* daughter, *Subbamai*, having been relieved of his curse after he bathed in the above tank and worshipped the *Linga*.

*Arjuna*, one of the sons of *Pandu Rajah*, while on his pilgrimage, is said to have come to this place and dug a well in the temple with his arrow called *Gandeepam* which is considered to be very sacred and is named *Koti Theertham*.

Once *Bhooma Devi* was cursed by *Parvathi*, the wife of *Parameswara*, for certain reasons. She came to this *Punnagavanam*, bathed in the tank, worshipped the *Linga*, sunk a well by name *Bhoomitheertham* and performed severe penance. God appeared to her in the *Threthayugam* and blessed her and she was freed from her curse. It was in that *Yugam* that the God and Goddess were called *Bhoomi Nather* and *Mukthamalai*. The well *Bhoomitheertham*, is considered very sacred.

On a certain day when one Nichachera Mahamuni was supplying victuals to his guests, Chitra Rupen, a *Ghandarvah*, went there in the form of a parrot and spoiled them. The Muni grew angry at this and cursed the *Ghandarvah* to remain in the form of that parrot, for 1,000 years ; after he was cursed, the parrot it is said, went to this Punnagavanam and bathed in the water of *Gnanavani*, a well two miles from the temple on the west, and worshipped *Bhoominathar* and the form of the parrot disappeared and the *Ghandarvah* resumed his former form.

It is said that once *Brahma* with the other *Devas* came to this place dug a tank called *Brahamatheertham* bathed in it and worshipped the *Linga* and returned to their abides.

Once it is said that Kaleswarar with his wife Swarnavally came to this place from Jothirvanam at a distance of 40 miles to the north-east of the temple and hearing of its holiness and renown, constructed a tank called '*Thirilochna Theertham*' and a temple on the other side of the *Gundar* and remained there from that period.

A war took place between the Chola and the Pandya Kings, in which the Chola King was defeated. Disgraced at this, the King went out to his Kingdom and beseeched certain magicians to devise means to destroy the Pandyan Kingdom. The magicians consented and immediately created a large serpent by their charms, and ordered it to destroy the Pandyan Kingdom. No sooner the Pandyan King heard of this, than he prayed to Sundareswara, who appeared to him, bade him fear nothing and immediately shot an arrow known by the name of *Garudastram* upon the serpent which was then cut into three pieces of which the head is said to have fallen in this Punnaga forest at a distance of two miles to the west of the town. This place is therefore called Nagamalai. It is said that there is a *Linga* there called *Asweswarar* and that several *Rishis* perform penances there even now".

Muthuramalinga Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram Zamin made renovations and repairs to the temple. The high outer wall was constructed during his period. There are many stone inscriptions in the temple. An inscription in the *Garbagraham* by Rajaraja Cholan-I (950-980 A.D.) records his gifts made for lighting. Another inscription in *Pralaya Vinayagar sannadhi* records the grant of a gift of four sheep for lighting. In the year 1918, *Kumbabishekam* was performed by T. A. S. Annamalai Chettiar who was lessee of the endowed villages of the temple. Two miles east on a small hill there is old *Siva* Temple. Sree Ramana Maharishi used to sit in meditation in this hill during his younger days. Ramana Maharishi was born in Tiruchuli at 1 A.M. on December 30, 1879 corresponding to *Pramathi*, *Margazhi* 16th (i.e.) on *Arudra Darisanam* Day. His father Sri Sundramier was an uncertified Pleader practising before the local Magistrate. Alagammal was his mother. Ramana Maharishi was known as Venkatraman in his boyhood. In the



middle of the year 1896, when he was in his 17th year, lofty realisation and devotion ideals dawned on him. One day, sudden and unmistakable death seized him. He felt that he was going to die. The shock of fear of death made him at once introspective. The inner conscience urged him to go to Tiruvannamalai. He left the home without informing anybody and reached Tiruvannamalai on September 1, 1896. He obtained realisation and became a Maharishi. Since then he spent his days at Tiruvannamalai hills till he obtained *Mukthi*.

There are a Deputy Thasildar's Office, a Post Office, a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Nadar's High School, a Police Station at this place. There is a *Devasthanam Chatram* belonging to the Ramnad *Samasthanam*. All the portions of it have been rented.

A weekly market is held on every Wednesday.

*Tirukkalakkudi* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population:2,542) is situated 16 miles north-west of Tiruppattur, 13 miles west of Tirumayam and four miles east of Poolankurichy. It lies on the bus route from Tiruppattur to Poolankurichi.

Tirukkalakkudi is a corruption of Tirukkolakudi. The name is connected with the rugged rocky hillock below which the village is situated. Peculiarly the bluff rocks are in round shape. Hence the name. It is from *Thiru* meaning holy, *Kolam* meaning round and *Kudy* meaning village. It is also said that because Kagola Munivar did penance here and obtained bliss, the place was named after him as Tirukolakudy.

This place is important for the temple, which is one of the five temples belonging to Anjukoil Devasthanam of Kunnakkudi. Very similar to Piranmalai it has the appearance of fortification though it is described as a common pagoda surrounded by a simple wall. From a distance it looks like a bifling choultry. There is no *gopuram*. There is a fine spring from the rocks in the upper portion with strong and capital buildings in the form of choultry enshrining the Gods. From here it commands most interesting and extensive view of the country for 30 miles around. From this delightful spot one could distinctly see Kunnakkudi, Tirumayam fort, Melur hills, Piranmalai and Anamalai near Madurai.

There are three temples here. The temple of *Sathiavageswaran* alias *Poyyamolieeswarar* and *Maragathavalli*, facing west is situated outside the fort at the bottom of the footsteps leading to the entrance of the fort. On ascending to the interior, Lord *Subramanya* is seen facing the entrance. A little higher up is the first floor wherein is the temple of *Sivadharmapureswarar* and *Sivagami Ambigai*. The idol of *Patanjali Munivar* is worthy of note as it reveals a unity of conception, design and detail. There is a rock-cut temple with a *lingam* on a grand and magnificent scale, perhaps one of the

biggest in the southern districts. The *Siva* temple has been so scooped out that the interior is visible by natural light. On the outside stone walls of the temple, are the sculptures of saints *Agasthier* and *Pulasthiar* which are beautifully designed. To the right of this temple is the shrine of *Valampuri Vinayagar*. On the left may be seen seven maidens (*Saptha Kanniga*) with *Siva*.

Two kinds of architecture are seen at this place. They are *Chaityas* (chapels) and *Viharas* (monasteries). A monastery has been excavated out of the rock on the southern side of the hillock. Even today a monk is seen residing in it. There is a small *Dandant* temple adjacent to it.

On the top of the hillock there is a *Subramanyaswami* temple. Lord *Subramanya* is in a standing posture with six faces and twelve hands in a majestic posture.

The temple is said to have been constructed by Nambi Rajan and additions made by Sundara Pandyan. There are numerous inscriptions in the temple. Two jack trees are kept in great reverence as representing saints *Agasthiar* and *Pulasthiar*. Annual festival is held during the month of *Ani* for ten days. *Kumbabishekam* was performed about 13 years ago.

It has a branch Post-Office, Panchayat Office and a *Devasthanam* Office.

*Tirukkoshthiyur* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population : 2,190) lies five miles south of Tiruppattur and 16 miles north of Sivaganga on the Tiruppattur-Sivaganga road. This place is served by buses frequently.

*Tiru* means sacred, *Koshthi* means assembly and *Ur* means place thus meaning place of sacred assembly. The origin of the name is traced to a legend which says that *Vishnu*, *Brahma*, *Siva* and *Indra* met at this place for the purpose of devising ways and means for killing *Hiranya Rakshasa*. Hence the name.

This place is important for the far famed Vaishnavite temple. Of the 108 Vaishnavite sacred places, 18 are situated in Pandya Nadu and this place is one amongst the eighteen. Peyalwar, Boothathalwar, Perialwar, Thirumazhisai Alwar and Thirumangai Alwar have visited the temple and sang its praises in their sacred poems.

The temple is 472 feet east to west and 270 feet north to south. The *gopuram* is 85 feet high. Important part of the temple is the *Ashtanga* (eight parts) *Vimanam*. It is 96 feet high. The golden *Kalasam* is five feet high and 6½ feet in circumference. The special feature of the *Vimanam* is that its shadow never falls on the ground similar to the *gopuram* at Tanjore. There are three floors in the *Vimanam*. In the upper storey eight *Vimanams* can be seen one at each direction representing the eight words of the sacred *Mantram*.

The top most floor is called *Paramapadam* representing *Vaikuntam*. It enshrines *Paramapada Nathan* with *Sreedevi* and *Boodevi* on both sides. In the middle floor is the standing *Narayanan* with *Sreedevi* and *Boodevi*. This deity is called *Nindra Narayanan*. At the ground floor the *Vishnu* is in a lying posture in *Tiruparkadal*. He is therefore known as *Tirupalkadalnathan*. Besides, there are Lord *Kanna*, *Narasingamoorthy* and *Rama*.

Strangely there is a *Siva* temple in front of *Karungal Mantapam*, on the ground floor called *Surpeswarar* temple with inscriptions, dated A.D. 1679 of the *Sethupathis* of *Ramanathapuram*.

Though festivals take place all round the year, the most important one is that in May which attracts large number of *Vaishnavite* pilgrims. It was from this place that the *Vaishnavite* *Guru Ramanuja* propagated the secret *Mantra* for the salvation of the masses of all castes. *Acharya* *Sri Ramanuja* (about 800 years ago) got initiated into *Ashtachara Thirumantra* by his *Guru Acharya* *Thirukkoshthiyur Nambi* under the vow of secrecy that it should not be divulged to all and sundry and that if this injunction was violated, he would be committing a sin which would find him a place in hell. But *Ramanuja* to whom the spiritual bliss of the people at large was more valuable than his own personal salvation, decided to preach the *Thirumantram* to all and sundry even on the pain of his violating the injunction of his *Guru* and his consequent going to the hell. So in the absence of his *Guru* he went to the top of the tower and preached to the people the *Thirumantram*. The *Guru* who became aware of his disciple's violation of his mandatory, questioned the propriety of his conduct to which the latter said that he would rather prefer to go to hell than to withhold the blissful *Mantra* from the people who would be benefitted by it. This explanation opened the eyes of his *Guru*. The image of *Ramanujam* is installed in the very place where he preached the *Mantram* to the world. The house in which *Thirukkoshthiyur Nambi* lived still remains occupied by his descendants. The building is known as "*Thirukoshthiyur Nambigal Maligai*".

There are two cars for the temple. There is a tank known as *Josier Teppakullam* constructed by the *Pradhani* of *Raja of Sivaganga* who was an astrologer in which *Teppa Utsavam* takes place. The *Mahakumbabishekam* was performed on March 26, 1961. The temple bears inscriptions of the *Pandyan*, *Chola*, *Vijayanagar* and *Tanjore* kings.

This place has a *Panchayat Office*, an *Experimental Post-Office*, an *Devasthanam Superintendent's Office*, a *Panchayat Union Dispensary* and a *Board High School*.

The *Sivaganga Samasthanam* is maintaining a bungalow. There are two *Chatrams* one belonging to the *Chettiyars* and the other to *Yadhavas* for the pilgrims to stay.

The weekly market is held on Thursdays.

**Tiruppachchetti** (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 3,920) is situated on the Madurai-Ramanathapuram road and is 19 miles south-east of Madurai. This route is frequented by a number of buses. It is also a railway station on the Madurai-Rameswaram line. All passenger trains stop at this place.

The name is derived from *Thiru* means sacred *Pa* means verse and *Chetty* means joined or washed. The name is said to mean the place of sacred leaf containing the verse washed ashore. The following story accounts for it. Thirugnanasambandar, the saivite saint, and Jains agreed to a trial of strength between them before Sundara Pandya alias Nedumaran King of Madurai. Prayers of their faiths were written on palm leaves and thrown into the *Vaigai* to see which would stream against the current. Those of Jains floated down the stream along the current and were washed ashore at this place. The temple is built on the spot and round about it grew up the present village. It is also said that after the above incident the Pandyan King ordered to throw away into the *Vaigai* all the works of Jains as useless. The *Naladiar* was found ashore near this place. Hence the name.

During the reign of Marudhus (1783–1801), the forces of the East India Company marched towards Tiruppachetty on 7th June 1801 with a view to attack Sivaganga. They were harassed by Marudu forces on the road. In the fight in which the Marudhu forces were pushing over the river to gain a long and high tank bank which completely commanded the high road, one Major of the Company's forces was killed, 4 lieutenants were wounded, 16 soldiers were killed and 35 soldiers wounded. After an indecisive exchange, the Company's forces moved to Parthibanur on June 10, 1801.

The old *Siva* temple said to have been built by Emperor *Nala* enshrines *Thirunokia Alakiaswamy* and *Thirunokia Ashakianayaki-amman*. Marudhu brothers endowed two *Lingams* and a *Mara-gatham* (green stone), a rare collection, and constructed the *Amman* temple. The temple contains numerous stone inscriptions. The annual festival is celebrated on *Thai Poosam* day. Besides there are a *Vishnu* temple and a mosque.

This place was famous for *aruvals* (Sickle) and Tiruppachchetti *Aruval* was said to last long and more destructive in action. The skilled blacksmiths who made these *aruvals* have all vanished now and at present this cottage industry does not exist. This village shares the blessings of the river *Vaigai*. Paddy, sugarcane, plantains and brinjals are largely grown.

There are a Panchayat Office (This place became a Panchayat on 3rd August 1938) a Police Station, a Sub-Post Office, a Panchayat Union Dispensary and a high school.

Weekly market is held on Wednesdays.

*Tiruppattur* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 14,510) is the headquarters of the Taluk of its name. It is situated 39 miles east-north eastwards from Madurai and 22 miles north of Sivaganga. It is the central place for bus traffic. The bus routes from Thanjavur to Madurai, Madurai to Devakottai, Karaikkudi to Dindugal, Pudukkottai to Manamadurai pass through this place. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi which is 15 miles eastwards.

This place rose around the spot where *Valmiki Maharishi* did penance. Hence this place was known as Valmikipuram. *Valmiki* in Sanskrit means an 'ant hill'. The place was therefore called Tiruputhur in Tamil meaning beautiful ant hill-village.

Lord *Bairava* is the protecting deity of the place. An awe inspiring story is told about this God. Once the priest went to the temple accompanied by his child. After the *pooja* he unwittingly locked his child in and returned. On reaching home, finding that his child did not follow him, went to the temple and tried to open the door when a voice was heard saying "Take back your child tomorrow. It is safe here". The priest wanted to have the child even then. He therefore attempted to break open the door. Suddenly the shrieking of the child was heard and to his astonishment, he saw the child being thrown outside into pieces through the outlet for *Abishekam* water. This story is still told by the priests.

Thiru Udaya Thevar alias Vijayaragunatha Sethupathi (1711—1725 A.D.) built a fort at Tiruppattur. Perhaps on account of this fort, Tiruppattur Taluk was also known as Mallakottai Taluk. Chockkanatha Nayaka (1659—1682) who ruled over Madurai captured this fort for the reason that Tirumalai Sethupathi refused to come to his aid against 'Vanamian', a Bijapur General. But when he returned to Madurai to perform a religious festival, the Sethupathi defeated the Madurai Generals and recovered the fort.

After the separation of Sivaganga, Tiruppattur fort came under the Sivaganga domain. In 1801, the Marudu forces attacked the East India Company's forces which were on their way to Kalaiyarkoil against Marudhus. Tiruppattur fort fell and the Company's forces encamped in this fort on August 27, 1801. Later the British dismantled the fort. Remnants of the fort are still seen here.

There is an ancient *Siva* temple. It is one of the fourteen great Pandyan temples. *Thiruthalinathar* and *Sivagami Amman* are the deities. There are also idols of *Vishnu* both inside the temple and in the surrounding corridors. The *Bairavar Sannadhi* is another important section of the temple where the idol is in a rare posture of penance, majestic and attractive. The *mandapam* in front of it was constructed by the Marudhu brothers which contains their images. The temple is rich with inscriptions. Some inscriptions record the gifts of Virapratapa Achutadeva Maharaya (1535—1538 A.D.). The temple also bears the inscriptions of Parakrama Pandya Thevar and Sree Vallabha Thevar. Saints Tirugnana Sambandar and

Tirunavukkarasar have visited this temple and sang its praises in their sacred poems. The temple has two wooden cars. Annual festival is celebrated during *Vaikasi*. There is a big reservoir called *Sriithali* tank by the side of the temple.

*Poomayee Amman* temple attracts large crowd of 50,000 persons during the *Poochorial* festival in April—May.

There is a mosque and a church at this place. The Swedish Mission Eye Hospital was founded in 1909 by the first Medical Missionary of Church of Sweedan Mission, Dr. Fredrik Kugelberg, M.D. This Hospital is noted for eye treatment for a long time. The hospital can accommodate 122 patients with provision to admit medical, surgical and maternity cases. There are facilities for X-Ray radiation and ultraviolet rays treatment. A School of Nursing was started in 1926. Forty students are under training.

The spot where the Marudhu brothers were hanged is within the premises of this hospital and the place is still marked.

The town is the headquarters of the Tahsildar and Panchayat Union. There are a Taluk Office, a Sub-Treasury, a Judicial Sub-Magistrate's Court, a Sub-Registrar's Office, an Assistant Engineer's (Highways and Rural Works) Office, an Assistant Engineer's (Food Production) Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Board, a Police Station, a Post and Telegraph Office and a Public Call Office, a Forest Range Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, an Assistant Inspector of Labour's Office, a Sub-Unit National Malaria Eradication Programme Office, etc. There is a Government hospital, and two Government high schools one for boys and the other for girls.

There is one travellers' bungalow with three suits maintained by the Highways Department. Travellers rooms are also maintained by the Panchayat. The girls' High School of the town is located in a *chatram*.

The weekly market is held on Saturdays.

*Tiruppullani* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 3,951) lies 6 miles south of Ramanathapuram on the road to Kilakkarai. From the sea it is 3 miles northwards. Buses can be had very frequently, Ramanathapuram is the nearest railway station.

The name is from *Tiru* in Tamil meaning holy, *Pul* in Tamil meaning grass and *Ani* in Tamil meaning excellence. The Sanskrit name for the place is *Dharbasayana* meaning *Dharba* grass (*Eragrostis cynosuroides* rety) and *Sayana* meaning bed. *Rama* laid himself on a bed of *dharba* grass here and invoked *Varuna's* aid in crossing the Straits to *Lanka*. Hence the name. Another meaning is also attributed. It is said a sage by name *Pulli* performed penances and as a result *Lord Vishnu* appeared and transferred him to bliss. The place is said to have been named after him as from *Tiru* meaning beautiful, *Pullai* meaning name of sage and *Anai* meaning cause-way.

This place is famous for its *Vishnu* temple situated on the north-western side of the village surrounded by a high stone wall with a reservoir in front of it. Two pavilions raised on stone pillars, one adjoining the gate of the temple and the other to the east of the reservoir add to the grandeur of the place. This place is considered very sacred and pilgrims are required to visit this place after visiting Rameswaram. The temple enshrines *Adi Jagannatha* and *Padmasini* alias *Lakshmi*. The idol of *Rama* is also installed on account of *Rama's* connection with the place. *Vibishnan* is said to have surrendered to *Rama* at this place. The temple contains sculptures and inscriptions of Chola and Udayar dynasties of A.D. 1374. The temple was endowed by Kilavan Sethupathi (1674—1710), Kattaya Thevar (1730—1735) and Marudhu (1780—1801). Annual festivals are held in April and July. Thirumangai Alwar has visited this place and has sung poems in praise of the temple. *Adisethu thirtham*, the bathing place in the sea, is three miles east of this place. It is said to be the starting point of the *Sethu* or causeway. It can be reached either by walking or car as no buses are plying. Bullock carts are available. This bathing place is held in as much esteem as Dhanushkodi and is frequented by pilgrims on their return from Rameswaram. *Rama* bathed here on his expedition to *Lanka*. A beautiful idol of sage *Agasthia* made of marble stone may be seen under an *arasa* (*Ficus religiosa*) tree on the way to the bathing place. It is worshipped by pilgrims.

After the death of Sella Thevar alias Vijaya Reghunatha Sethupathi, the Dalavai Damodaram Pillai (after A.D. 1762) erected a fort in Tiruppullani which can still be seen in a dilapidated condition.

The sea coast abounds with cocoanut and palmyrah trees. Palmyrah-leaf industry is the chief occupation of this place. About 150 persons are engaged in making fancy bags, floor mats, baskets and other varieties. Besides, there is a lime industry. Carpentry and blacksmithy are thriving in a small scale. There is a Palm Leaf Training-cum-production Centre run by Women's Welfare Department and Tailoring Unit for women run by the Panchayat Union.

It is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union of that name. It has a Post-Office, a Panchayat Office, a Panchayat Union Office, a Cocoanut Nursery Assistant's Office and a high school.

There is a Vellayan Servai Chatram founded by Vellayan Servai and endowed by Muthu Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi Katta Thevar. There is another *chatram* called Malayala Chatram founded by Sri Kulasekara Perumal, Maharaja of Travancore in 1768—1769. A.D. during the period of Muthuramalinga Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram.

*Tiruppuvanam* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 10,226) is 12 miles south-east of Madurai and 18 miles west of Manamadurai. It is situated on the southern bank of the *Vaigai* on the Madurai-Manamadurai Road. Buses ply to all important places around it.

The Southern Railway passes through it. All the trains from Madurai to Manamadurai and vice versa stop at this railway station. This place was constituted into a Panchayat in the year 1888. It was electrified on 26th November 1951. It is the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of its name.

Tiruppuvanam is from the Tamil word *Tiru* meaning sacred, *Pu* in Tamil denotes flower and *Vana* in Sanskrit denotes garden. It means 'Sacred Flower Garden'. The place is known in Sanskrit as *Pushpavana* meaning the same. The name is derived from the following legend.

At the south-east corner of the local *Poovannanathaswamy*, temple there is a holy water called '*Manikarnigai Thirtham*' founded by the Sun God. Bones of corpses immersed in this water would become fragrant flowers. According to the *Puranas*, *Dharumarajan* threw bones of his dead father into the water and was surprised to see the bones transforming into flowers. Hence the place is called Tiruppuvanam after this incident. Even to-day the bones of the dead are taken to this place and buried on the banks of the river *Vaigai* just opposite the temple.

There are many stories in the *Puranas* about Tiruppuvanam. The holy *Linga* is said to have appeared under the *Parijatha* tree grown by Goddess *Uma* and worshipped by the Sun God. One *Tirasanan* worshipped the Goddess first instead of worshipping the *Lingam*. He was therefore cursed to be born as a *rakshasa* for his fault. On learning the cause from *Naradha* he took a holy bath in *Brahma Thirtha* of this place and purified himself from the sin. *Dhunnannan* and his comrade committed sin by stealing from the palace. They, however, obtained salvation by drowning themselves in *Manikarnigai Thirtham*. *Urpalangi* secured a good husband by worshipping the goddess with '*Neelorpalam*' flowers. *Brahma*, the four-faced God, purified himself from the sin of having looked with an evil eye on *Oorvasi* the celestial dancing girl, when her garments slipped from her body, by constructing the temple and conducting a festival. King *Nala* said to have visited this place and celebrated the *Vaikasi* festival. There are many more stories about *Lakshmi*, *Vishnu*, *Uma*, daughter of *Thakkan*, *Markandeyar*, etc.

This place is famous for *Poovannanathaswamy* temple. It is one of the fourteen sacred Pandya great temples. This is a very old temple and must have been in existence before 7th century as *Thirugnana Sambandar* has visited this temple. One *Kandasamy Pulavar* who was in 1543 A.D. has written a *sthalapuranam* of this place. The temple is situated on the Southern bank of *Vaigai*. The temple is 400 feet long east to west and 327 feet broad north to south. It has a high outer wall. At the entrance of the temple, life like stone statutes of *Tirumalai Nayak* and his consort, *Vallabha Sithar*, *Tirumal Nayak's Pradhani Chokkappa Nayakar*, and *Ponnanaiyal*, the dancing girl devotee, are seen. There is a massive wooden car



for the temple. But this is not dragged during the festival for the past five years. The 36th and 49th miracle of God *Siva* narrated in *Madurai Sthalapuram* (64 *Thiruvilayadal Puranam*) relates to this place. The 36th miracle or story as narrated in *Madurai Gazetteer* is as follows :—

During the reign of Rajendra Pandya there flourished in Tiruppuvanam a very beautiful *Dasi* or dancing girl attached to the pagoda, named Ponnanaiyal. She was an ardent devotee of Lord *Siva* and whatever she received from her lovers, she spent in large to Brahmins, and in other charitable acts. As she was extremely anxious but unable to make a golden image of *Siva*, the God took pity on her and one night visited her in the form of a religious ascetic and promised to grant her her wish, if she would but follow his directions. He then explained to her, that she must place all her brass pots and iron utensils on the fire, after sprinkling them with holy ashes, and leave them there all night. She did so ; and next morning lo ! and behold ! she was possessed of a large lump of the precious metal. With this she immediately made an idol ; and she was so delighted with it that she kissed it on the cheek and embraced it. The idol was placed in the temple and it still bears the mark of the dancing girl's kiss.

Forty-ninth story states that Tiruppuvanam was the eastern boundry of Madurai. It is stated that during the reign of Kirti Vibhiushana was the general deluge. By this the whole world was destroyed with the exception of the buildings which immediately surrounded the shrine of *Sundra Linga* and *Minakshi* ; the golden lily tank, the Elephant Hill, the Bull Hill, the Cow Hill, the Serpent Hill, the Boar Hill and the Seven Seas and the town of Madurai.

In front of the temple there is the unfinished tower called *Raya Gopuram* which Tirumala Nayaka began but could not completed. It is said that he began as many as 64 other *mandapams* simultaneously and many of them remained incomplete. Examples may be seen at Madurai, Alagarkoil, etc. After this it is common to dub all hopeless ambitious undertaking as *Raya Gopuram*.

Adjacent to the *Raya Gopuram* is the *Mandapam* of Ponnanaiyal. The *Chockanathaswamy* of Madurai is to come here. But this practice has been stopped as the *mandapam* is in ruins. Adjacent to this *Mandapam* is Tirumalai Nayak's Mahal. It is similar in design to other mahals in that there is a vaulted dome on the four walls of the buildings. This appears to have been constructed to provide himself with the halting place. Only a portion of the Mahal remains. In front of it there is the bell *mandapam*. There are four *theerthams* (Holy waters) in the temple. The chief festival is held in *Panguni* (March-April) for ten days. The temple contains many stone inscriptions and copper plate *Sasanams*. King Seraman Perumal has visited this place. Saints Thirgnana Sambandar, Thirunavukarasu Nainar, Sundaramoorthy Nainar, Karuvorthevar has sung Tamil ballads in praise of this place.

and temple. Tablets on the walls of the temple contain these songs. This place has earned the distinction of being mentioned in the *Peria Puranam* and the *Thiruvilayadal Puranam*. About 40 years ago, with the united efforts of the people, Devakottai and Nattukkottai Chettiars performed *kumbabishekam*. Again on August 28, 1961 another *kumbabishekam* was performed. The Zamindar of Sivaganga is the hereditary trustee of the temple.

There are other temples viz., *Subramanyaswami* temple, *Perumal* temple, *Mariamman* temple, *Muniandi* temple and *Korakkar Sithar* temple. There are one Mosque and one Church at this place.

Town Panchayat Office, Sub-Registrar's Office, Panchayat Union Office, a Police Station, a Post-Office combined with Telegraph Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, Electricity Board Branch Office, Food Production Supervisor's Office, a Board High School and a Panchayat Union Dispensary are located at this place. Telephone Public Call Office was opened on 1st November 1963.

A weekly market is held on every Tuesday. Considerable trade is made in betel leaves and cocoanut.

A submersible bridge 1288 feet long at a cost of Rs. 14,000 has been constructed over the river *Vaigai*. It was opened on June 14, 1963. Tolls are being collected on vehicles passing over the bridge.

*Tiruttangal* (Sattur Taluk-Population 8260) lies 2 miles north of Sivakasi on the road from Virudhunagar to Sivakasi. Town buses are running from Sivakasi to Tiruttangal. It is a railway station between Sivakasi and Virudhunagar on the Madras-Trivandrum Railway line. Express trains do not stop here.

A hillock of about 100 feet height known as Tangal Giri stands on the north-eastern portion of the village. The village gets its name from it with the prefix *Thiru* added to it. It is also said that *Tirupati Narayanan* was proceeding to *Srivilliputtur* to attend the marriage of *Andal*. As it became dark he halted here. Hence the place was known as Tiruttangal. Tiruttangal is from *Tiru* meaning sacred and *Tangal* meaning halt.

On the hillock stands a *Perumal* temple facing south. The temple is dedicated to *Nindra Perumal* (standing *Perumal*) and *Sengamala Nachiar*. At the bottom of the hillock, a temple has been cut out of the rock and in the shrine the idol of *Vishnu* in lying posture is seen. Stone inscriptions show that the temple was constructed during the Pallava period about 1300 years ago. The *Garba Graham*, *Artha Mandapam*, the *Mahamandapam*, and the outer walls were constructed during their period. The other *Mandapams* were constructed by people of the neighbouring

villages. About 40 years ago two Naickers of Sengamala Nachiapuram, Ramanuja Doss and Narayana Doss by name, constructed the front hall and the *Garuda Mandapam*. On the top of the rock there are a *Siva* temple and a *Subramanyaswamy* temple.

A single wall separates the *Siva* temple and the *Vishnu* temple. The *Siva* is called *Irunallinathasami*. There are two *Nalli* trees and were therefore called as *Irunalli*. *Siva* was named after it as *Irunallinathaswami*. Annual festival in the *Vishnu* temple is performed during the month of *Ani* for ten days while the festival is held during *Ghithirai* in the *Siva* temple. It is one of the 108 Vaishnavite sacred places and one of the five Vaishnavite places of Pandya Kingdom. Thirumangai Alwar and Perialwar have chanted verses in praise of this place.

Tradition has it that *Lakshmi* performed *tapas* here. Emperor Pruruva is said to have come here and did penance. At the request of this Emperor, Lord *Krishna* condescended to perform the marriage of *Usha*, daughter of the giant *Banasuran* with *Aniruthan* at this place. There is a story that Devendra Vallabha, a Pandya King, one day saw a tiger near the western ghats and in order to kill it, he chased it. The tiger avoiding him came to this place. When the Pandya aimed an arrow at it, a Dhuruva appeared out of the tiger, narrated the history of his previous birth and transferred into bliss. The body of the tiger assumed the form of a rock and it is called Puliparai or tiger rock even now.

Being close to Sivakasi, it is one of the industrial places. There are a number of fire works factories and match factories besides, litho presses, lathe works and foundaries.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a Sub-Post-Office with Telegraph and Telephone facilities, a Panchayat Union Hospital and a Board High School.

It is one of the good agricultural centres of Sattur Taluk.

*Tiruvadanai* (Tiruvadanai Taluk-Population 2,418) is the headquarters of the Taluk of that name. It is situated on the road from Madurai to Tondi at the 60th mile from Madurai. The nearest railway station is Devakottai Road which is about 22 miles. It is also 32 miles east of Sivaganga and is connected by road to Madurai, Devakottai and Ramanathapuram. From the sea it is 8 miles westwards.

Tiruvadanai goes by the following twelve names in the *Puranas*:—

1. Parijatha Vanam (பாரிஜாத வனம்)
2. Vanni Vanam (வன்னி வனம்)
3. Kurukkathy Vanam (குருக்கத்தி வனம்)
4. Vilva Vanam (விலவ வனம்)
5. Muthipuram (முத்தி புரம்)
6. Adhirathneswaram (ஆதிரத்நேஸ்வரம்)

7. Adanai (ஆடானை)
8. Markandeyapuram (மார்கண்டேயபுரம்)
9. Agastheeswaram (அகஸ்தீஸ்வரம்)
10. Padumapuram (பதுமபுரம்)
11. Gomutheeswaram (கோமூத்தீஸ்வரம்)
12. Vijayeswaram (விஜயேஸ்வரம்)

The Sun God once made a *Lingam* from a Sapphire and worshipped it. Hence the place was called Adi Rathneswaram and the *Moolavar* as *Adhi Rathneswarar* \* (ஆதி ரத்நேஸ்வரம்). The *Sthalapuranam* of the place has it that a son of *Varuna* (God of water) was cursed to be born in the form of an elephant with the head of a sheep. This illustrates the name of Tiruvadanaï. The word Tiruvadanaï is a composition of three Tamil words viz. (Tirut+Adu+Anai). *Tiru* means beautiful, *Adu* means sheep and *Anai* means elephant. It may also connote "victorious elephant".

It is said that Saint *Durvasa* used to do *tapas* for 12 years at a stretch and take meals at the end of it. Once the son of *Varuna*, who happened to come that way, ate the food intended for the saint. The saint on waking up from *tapas* found that his food has been eaten by the son of *Varuna*. The saint therefore cursed him to be born in the form of an elephant with a head of a sheep. The interpretation is that he may be in perpetual desire for food with the huge stomach of an elephant served by a disproportionately small inlet that of the mouth of a sheep. To make amends the son of *Varuna* in the latter form worshipped the *Lingam* and obtained salvation resuming his original form. It is after this the *Lingam* was named *Ajagaj-eswarar* அஜகஜேஸ்வரர். It is also called as *Adanai Nathar*, *Adhirathneswarar* and *Rathna Nathar*. The *Amman* deity is known as *Anbayiammai* (அன்பாயி அம்மை). Saint Tirugnana Sambandar has visited this temple and has sung Tamil songs in praise of the place.

With a majestic 150 feet *gopuram* signalling welcome to the devotees, this old sculptured *Siva* temple was founded by Sundara Pandya and Kulasekara Pandya, during 300 A.D. The temple is 422 feet long and 252 feet broad and is surrounded by a wall. Koothan Sethupathi who ruled over Ramanathapuram during 1621-1635 made additional endowments to Tiruvadanaï temple. Sadaika Thevar who was in Ramanathapuram during 1605 to 1621 made grants to the temple. *Hiranya Garbhayaji* Sethupathi has also made grants to this temple and has recorded it in two copper plate *śasanams*.

It is one of the 14 great *Siva* temples of Pandya. The fourteen temples are 1. Madurai; 2. Thirupuravayil, 3. Thirucoutralam; 4. Thiru Aappanur; 5. Thiru Vadagam; 6. Tirunelveli;

\* "ஆதியா" துறை "ஆடானை" என்பது தேவாரம்.

7. Rameswaram ; 8. Tiruvadanai ; 9. Tiruparankundram ; 10. Thiruchuli ; 11. Kalaiyarkoil ; 12. Tiruppattur; 13. Piranmalai and 14. Thiruppuvanam.

The temple was renovated by RM. AR. AR. RM. Chettiar's family of Devokottai in the year 1889 at a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs. *Kumbabishegam* was celebrated in the year 1953. The two chief festivals are (1) *Vaikasi Visagam* (10 days in April) and *Adipuram* (15 days in July).

Tiruvadanai is administered by a Panchayat. It being the headquarters of the Taluk there is a Taluk Office with a Tahsildar. It is also the headquarters of the Panchayat Union. There is one Post Office *cum*-Telegraph Office. The place is connected by telephone. There are a Police Station, a Sub-Magistrate's Court, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Government Hospital, a Sub-Treasury, a Sub-Jail, a Panchayat Union Office, an Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, a Veterinary Hospital, an Electricity Office (construction), a Panchayat Office, Food Production and Highways Department Offices, and a production as well as a Training Centre in Blacksmithy and carpentry. There is also a Board High School.

One electrified and furnished traveller's bungalow is situated on the Madurai-Tondi Road.

Weekly market is conducted by the Ramanathapuram Devasthanam on every Monday.

*Tiruvannamalai* (Srivilliputtur Taluk—Population 358) lies 2 miles north of Srivilliputtur. Buses are plying. The nearest railway station is Srivilliputtur which is 3 miles south of the village.

The place is important for the *Vishnu* temple on a hillock at the northern end of the village. The village situated at the bottom of a hillock, was formerly known as *Tirumalai* meaning sacred hillock. With process of time it came to be corrupted as *Tiruvannamalai*.

In these parts the place is called South Tirupathi. Legend has it that *Tirupati Venkatachalapathi* came for a hunt and in order to give *dharsan* and to bless his devotees, he stayed in the temple on the hill here. The hillock is about 200 feet high. Up the hill is built about 250 stone steps flanked at intervals by *mandapams* and lesser shrines. The temple stands on the top of the hill commanding an extremely beautiful view. The Western Ghats which are about 6 miles away from this place form a beautiful background scenery. The temple consists of a shrine enclosed by an outer wall. To the north of the northern wall the foot prints of Lord *Venkateswara* are imbedded on the hill and is worshipped by devotees. The deity Lord *Venkatachalapathy* is in a standing posture without his consort. There is no *Amman* shrine separately either. *Koneri Tamarai Tirtham* is at the foot of the hill where pilgrims take their bath before going up the hill.

Pilgrims come to this temple mostly during Saturdays. These days especially the third Saturday in the month of *Purattasi* attract thousands of people. *Andal* is brought here from Srivilliputtur on that day and taken round the hillock. Vessels, money, cattle, silver articles are offered to the deity on these days. The annual income of the temple is about Rs. 10,000. It is a sub-temple of Srivilliputtur Nachiar *Devasthanam*.

It has a Panchayat Office.

Each community has a separate *madam* at this place.

*Tiruvengampattu* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 2,361) lies 11 miles west of Tiruvadanai, 48 miles east of Madurai and 13 miles south of Devakottai. It is situated on the Highway road from Madurai to Tondi. Tondi, Madurai and Devakottai are connected by bus routes.

Tiruvengampattu is a corruption of Tiruvengampattur. It is from *Tiru* in Tamil meaning beautiful, *Egambathar* proper name of the *Siva* of the place and *Ur* in Tamil meaning place. The name means village of *Ekambara Eswarar*.

There is an ancient Siva temple dedicated to *Ekambara Eswarar* and *Snekavalli* with numerous stone inscriptions. The figures of lion are seen at the bottom of the stone pillars of the temple revealing that this should have been in existence before the period of Pallavas. The temple is under the management of the Sivaganga *Devasthanam*. The idols of this temple are unusually big in size. Lord *Ganapathy* facing south can be said to be next in size to *Mukkurini Pillaiyar* of Madurai temple. The tradition has it that this was intended for *Uppar Vinayagar* temple, but could not be removed when it reached this place. Lord *Chandra* (Moon) is said to have worshipped *Siva* here.

It was the headquarters of a Zamin Taluk in the Sivaganga Zamindari before abolition. It has a Panchayat Office, a branch Post-Office, a National Malaria Eradication Programme Sub-Office, a Primary Health Centre, a Section (Highways) Office and a high school.

It was an important halting place for pilgrims. There is a *Devasthanam Chatram* in which the high school has been located. A travellers' bungalow is maintained well. Though furnished, it is not electrified.

*Tiruvettiur* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 777) lies 7 miles south-west of Tondi and nine miles south-east of Tiruvadanai. Sivaganga is the nearest railway station. Occasional buses are plying to this place from Tondi.

Tiruvettiur is from *Tiru* meaning beautiful *Vetri* in Tamil meaning victory and *Ur* means village. Success from bites of poisonous insects is attained in this village. Hence it was named as Tiruvettiur.

There is an old *Siva* temple of about 500 years old with a reservoir called *Vasuki Thirtham* in front of the temple. Persons bitten by poisonous insects such as snakes, scorpions, etc., take a bath in this *Thirtham*, perform *abishekam* to the deity and swallow a few leaves of the *Sihalaviruksha*, viz., *Nimbavanam* tree (Neem tree). Patients from different parts resort to this place for a cure. The temple is dedicated to *Vanmeeginathar* (*Pasham-Butranathar* in Tamil), and *Abibakthanayaki* in Sanskrit (*Pagam Piriyal* in Tamil). Annual festival is held in the month of *Chithirai* for ten days. Lord *Vishnu* is said to have performed *pooja* here to get relief from the sins committed by Him, by His maltreatment of *Mahabali* during his *Vamana Avadhar*. In token of it there is a *Vishnu* temple at this place.

It has a branch Post-Office, a Panchayat Office and a Maternity Centre.

*Tittandadanam* alias *Pullakkadamban* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 381) lies near the sea coast 8 miles north of Tondi. There is a metalled road and there is a regular bus service from Tondi. This village is also known as *Pullakkadamban Tittandadanam*.

One Panditha Chola Raja who suffered from leprosy worshipped the deity here and was cured of his ailment. From this incident the *Linga* was named *Sarvathirtham Udayavar* and the village *Tittandadanam*.

This place is important for its old *Siva* temple. It is said to have been in existence in all the *yugas*. In *Kriithayuga* the God was known as *Pasupatheswarar* and the village *Ravipuram* because the sun God worshipped the *Linga*. In the *Tretayuga*, the God was called as *Viruthapureswarar* and the village *Virudapuram* on account of the fact *Vasishtha* and other *rishies* worshipped the God. In the succeeding *Dwaparayuga* the God was called *Brahmapureswarar* and the village as *Brahmapuram* for the reason that *Brahma* worshipped the God. Now in the *Kaliyuga* they are known as *Sarvatheertha Udayavar* and *Tittandadanam*. Panditha Chola Raja is said to have built the temple here. The village is a sacred bathing place of the coast frequented by pilgrims especially on New Moon Days.

There is a *chatram* at this place. This *chatram* was originally founded by Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi and endowed by Muthuramalinga Sethupathi. There was another *chatram* here built by one Kolandai Chetty. It fell into decay and its endowment was transferred to the present *chatram* by the donor.

This is a tiny village and fishing is done on a very small scale. The sea is very calm and is suitable for bathing.

*Tondi* (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 6,422) is situated in the Palk's Bay on the east coast and is eight miles east of Tiruvadanai. It is on the once famous Trunk Road between Benares (Varanasi) and Rameswaram.

During the *Sangam* age Tondi was known as Chola Tondi<sup>1</sup>. It is different from the Tondi on the west coast now called Quilandy, a European corruption of the alternative term Kadal Tondi (*Kadal* means Sea) and known in ancient times as Porayan Tondi or Cheran Tondi. Tondi was among the places held by Lankapura Dandanayaka during the brief Ceylonese occupation of the Ramanathapuram country in the later period of the twelfth century. According to the Chola account Kulasekhara sought for and obtained the help of the Chola King Rajadhiraja II who sent his army under Sambuvarayan, and this Chola general fought and defeated Langapura<sup>2</sup> and Tondi was the scene of some fighting.

In the town there is a popular *darga* of a saint called Sheik Muhammad Mudaliar Sahib. Legend has that Nawab Muhammad Alikhan, a chieftain hearing the greatness of the saint came to see him. While on his way, he said to himself that if the person was really a great saint, he should not only offer him a tender coconut immediately on his arrival but also made a fish jump out of it as soon it was opened for drinking.

It appears it all happened as the Nawab wanted. Again Nawab, wanted the blessings of the saint for conquerring the Sethupathi. The saint instead, told him that the Sethupathi would voluntarily come on the next Friday and compromise with him. This also is said to have happened.

There is a regular bus service between Tondi and the nearest railway station, Sivaganga, lying about 40 miles in the south-west and the Devakottai Road Railway Station which is also about 40 miles in the north-east. There is also a direct bus-service between Tondi to Madurai.

Tondi is a port. It is open both to coastal and foreign trade. The bay is shallow and hence steamers and square rigged vessels anchor at about 3 to 5 miles off the shore. There is a mast, kerosene oil, light house. It is visible to a distance of 10 miles.

The Muslims of Tondi were traders in Ceylon. Their trade in Ceylon has considerably diminished owing to the enforcement of several control measures by the Ceylon Government and they are hard hit. Some Muslims own fishing boats and nets. They are let on hire to fishermen. Large scale fishing is done at Tondi. Boat construction is also undertaken.

In pre-war days teak and other timber to the value of about Rs. 15 lakhs were imported annually from Moulmein, Rangoon and Akyab. This timber was imported by the Nattukkottai Chettiars of Devakottai, Karaikkudi and other places. During and after the war, paddy under the civil supplies scheme, was imported from Moulmein and exported to the neighbouring ports. There were coast-wise imports

<sup>1</sup>. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, S.—*South Indian and her Mahummadan invaders*

<sup>2</sup>. Baliga, Dr. B.S.—*Madurai District Gazetteer, 1960*—Page 35.



such as cocoanuts from Pamban in the south and Abiramapatnam on the north, rice, paddy, kerosene oil and other sundry articles from Tuticorin or Nagapatnam and tiles from Calicut and Quilon. Coast-wise exports were paddy and straw to Dhanushkodi, Ramseswaram and Pamban. This post is within easy reach of Ceylon. Hence there was once regular bi-weekly passenger steamer service carrying about 200 passengers from Tondi to Ceylon and vice versa prior to opening of the Dhanushkodi Talaimanar route. Opening of the railway line in the year 1914 from Madurai to Dhanushkodi has affected the trade of this port to a considerable extent. Since then the passenger and goods traffic have been entirely diverted to that route. At present chanks are fished locally by Government lessees.

There is a combined Post and Telegram Office at Tondi. A Public Call office has been opened on July 1, 1963. A high school two elementary schools, a hospital, a Custom Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station and offices of the Fisheries Department and Deputy Inspector of Schools are located here. There is a travellers' bungalow situated on the sea-shore. There is a Meteorological Observatory Station in the town which began its functions from June 15, 1959. A weekly market is held on every Wednesday.

*Uchchipuli* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 1,416) stands between the Gulf of Manar and the Palk Strait on the Mantapam Peninsula and lies 14 miles east of Ramanathapuram and 10 miles west of Mantapam on the good motorable black topped Ramanathapuram-Mantapam road. The Palk Strait is 1 mile 2 furlongs on the north and the Gulf of Manar is 3 miles on the south. Good bus traffic exists between Ramanathapuram and Mantapam. It is a railway station on the Dhanushkodi—Madras railway line. Express train do not stop here.

The name is a corruption of Ujjaini Mahali. Emperor *Vikramaditya* is said to have remained in secret here for six months in a year. The legend has it that *Vikramaditya* was a great devotee of *Kali* (God of Sakti) and that *Kali* once foretold that *Vikramaditya* would rule for 1,000 years while his Minister *Patti* by name would remain in Office for 2,000 years. To circumvent the prediction, *Patti* suggested that *Vikramaditya* should remain in the capital for six months and spend the remaining six months in a forest so that the actual period of reign might be spread over 2,000 years and both could remain in Office for the same period and yet satisfy the prediction. Accordingly he came over to South India and remained in this place. There is a small *Kali* temple in this village also.

There are temples for *Kali*, *Vinayaka*, *Subramanya*, two mosques and a *dharga*. *Nagoor Andavar* is said to have halted in this village during his pilgrimage. In memory of it Muslims have raised a *dharga* on the northern sea-shore. *Sandanakoodu* festival is celebrated at this place on the identical day similar to the one performed at *Nagoor Andavar Dharga*.

Palm-leaf industry flourishes here. Articles like mat, baskets, etc., are manufactured. Palm gur is also manufactured. Fishing, dry-fish production are the other important occupation of the people. Chank fishing is done during the appropriate seasons. There is a Coconut Nursery Centre. It is maintained by Government. Cocanaut has been raised on large extents of area around the village. There are two ice factories, 2 rice and a few flour mills and one essential oil mill.

A Panchayat Office, a Sub-Post Office, a Panchayat Union Rural Dispensary, Offices of Cocanaut Nursery Assistant and Cocanaut Development Assistant and a Police Out-post are located here.

There is a *chatram* founded by Kathali Nachiyar, daughter of Ragunatha Sethupathi, a former Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram. The Maternity Centre and a hospital are located in this building.

Three miles west of this place is a fair weather circular aerodrome opened in the year 1937<sup>1</sup>.

*Uppur*. (Tiruvadanai Taluk—Population 1,052) lies 28 miles by road north-east of Ramanathapuram and 16 miles south of Tiruvadanai. A few buses running from Tiruvadanai to Ramanathapuram pass through this village. It is a coastal village.

The sea at this place is called *Lavanasamudram* in Sanskrit. Consequently the village was also called as Lavanapuram in Sanskrit. *Lavanam* in Sanskrit means salt and in Tamil *Uppu*. Hence the village is called Uppur meaning salt village.

There is a temple without roof enshrining *Veyvil Uantha Vinayagar*. As the name of the God implies, *Vinayagar*, pleased with the offerings of God Sun, desired to remain in open so that the sun's rays may ever be falling on him. The temple is said to have been built by one *Veeman* who was childless and had a son born to him as a result of his prayer to this God. *Rama*, the hero of the epic *Ramanaya* is said to have worshipped here before proceeding to *Lanka*. *Vinayaka Chathurthi* festival attracts a large crowd of Nattukkottai Chettiyars who have built a *chatram* for the convenience of the pilgrims. The *Samasthanam chatram* is in repairs.

It has a branch Post-Office, a Panchayat Office and a Panchayat Union Dispensary.

Fishing is the main occupation of the villagers.

*Uttarakosamangai*. (Thiruuthrakosamangai)—(Ramanathapuram Taluk Population 1,375) is eleven miles west south-west of Ramanathapuram on the road to Mudukulattur. Buses are plying to this place. A railway station of the name is 4 miles north of this place.

<sup>1</sup> For further details please see the chapter on "communications".

The name is derived from *Uttram* meaning answer, *Cosa* meaning Veda and *Mangai* meaning woman. It is connected with a legend which says that while *Siva* was teaching a *Veda* to *Parvathy*, Lord *Subramanya* also shared the teaching by hiding himself in the tuft of *Parvathy* in the guise of a bee. *Siva* was enraged and cursed *Parvathy* to be born as a girl and *Subramanya* as a fish. *Siva* appeared on earth in the form of a young man, married her and taught her *Vedas* at this place. Hence the name for the village. It is also known by twelve other names. The birth of Manickavasagar is related to an incident in his previous birth in this place narrated in the *Sthalapuranam*.

The *Siva* temple at this place is quite famous. It is 592 feet east to west and 518 feet north to south. The *rajagopuram* on the outer wall opposite to *Mangalanathaswamy*, the presiding deity, is 120 feet high with seven storeys. In line with this *gopuram* and a few yards west of it there is a *gopuram* of 64 feet high with five storeys. The one opposite to *Mangalanayaki Ammal*, the goddess, is unfinished. Lord *Nataraja* is said to have performed his "Cosmic dance" or *Oorthava Thandavam* in private here, and in public at Chidambaram. On account of this incident, this place is spoken of as *Adi Chidambaram* meaning first Chidambaram. The thousand *Lingam* beneath an *Ilandai* tree is a place of interest in the temple. Saint Manickavasagar is said to have studied under the Lord with 998 others in this temple. Once the Lord left them and did not return as per the scheduled time. Grief stricken disciples thereupon entered the fire. The Lord who was pleased with their sincerity and love transformed them into 1,000 *Lingams*. They are seen in forty lines, each line having 25 *Lingams*. A tank has come into existence at the spot where the disciples entered the fire. It is known as *Agni Thirtham*. Saints Manickavasagar and Arunagiri have visited the temple and sang its praises. The chief festivals are *Arudra Dharsanam* in the month of December and *Chithirai* festival which attract thousands of pilgrims to this place. Pilgrims to Rameswaram visit this place on their return journey. The temple is rich with sculptures and inscriptions. An inscription of 1609 A.D. records gift of money to celebrate certain festivals for the merit of Muthuveerappa Nayaka.

Agriculture is the foremost occupation of this place. The carpenters and blacksmiths produce agricultural implements, country carts and building materials such as windows, doors, etc.

This village has a Panchayat Office, a Sub-Post-Office, a Section Office (Highways), an Agricultural Depot, a high school and a junior basic elementary school. It is the headquarters of Revenue Inspector's firka.

Ramanathapuram *Samasthanam* is maintaining a *chatram* for the pilgrims,

*Vairavanpatti* (Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 506) lies 4 miles east of Tiruppattur and 9 miles west of Karaikkudi. It is on the Madurai-Devakottai road and number of buses are plying. The nearest railway station is Karaikkudi junction on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line.

The place is important for the *Vairavar* temple. Hence the place is named after it as *Vairavanpatti* meaning *Vairavan* habitation.

*Vairavan* temple, measuring 298' by 184' with a stone reservoir in front of it measuring 199' X 192' 6", is one of the nine Nagarathar temples constructed about 100 years ago. On the east there is a *gopuram* on the outer wall about 60' high. Lord *Vairavar* is located between *Valasoleeswarar* (*Siva*) and *Vadivu-daiammai* (Goddess) in the temple. It is at this place the *Avatharam* of *Vairavar* took place in order to kill the giants *Manikasuran* and *Mailasuran*. The shrine of *Vairavar* is constructed of polished black granite. The facade is adorned with monolithic pillars elaborately chiselled. Two such pillars in front of *Natarajar*, represent a warrior and another group of pillars represents the marriage of *Meenakshi*, *Kannappanayinar*, etc. The front pillars of *Dhakshinamoorthy* are made of musical stones which produce different sounds on being tapped. One special feature of the temple is that *Nandi* is housed in a separate *mandapam* with a small *gopuram* touching the ceiling of the temple. *Chandikeswarar* temple is cut out of a single block of stone which is a rare example of difficult and patient labour. This temple was cut in the granite on the hillock about two furlongs south of this temple. That place is even to-day called as *Chandikeswarar Pallam* in Tamil. The puranic stories connected with the temple are painted on the ceiling of the first *Prakaram* of the front hall.

Large scale quarrying is done in the stone hillock. Stone slabs, pillars, grinding stones, stone mortars, road metal, etc., are made here. Large number of stone masons thrive on this profession. Many stone pillars cut for the *Vairavan* temple in those days are still seen strewn on the sides of the hillock.

The village has a Panchayat Office and an Animal Husbandry Department Key village sub-centre.

There is a Nagarathar Chatram for Nattukkottai Chettiyars only.

*Valinokkam*<sup>1</sup> (Mudukulattur Taluk) lies 26 miles south-east of Mudukulattur. From Mukkaiyur, a coastal village of Mudukulattur Taluk, it is 12 miles east. It could be reached either by a jeep or a bullock cart as it is not connected by a good road.

1. It is included in Kilakidaram Panchayat whose population is 8,789.

There is no separate population figure for Valinokkam Village.

In the earlier records (Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency of 1893) the name of the village is mentioned as Valimookham meaning the face of *Vali*, king of monkeys whom *Rama* killed. Valinokkam is a corruption of Valimookkam.

It is a coastal village situated on the west of a small bay on the Mudukulattur Taluk side of the Gulf of Manar. This bay is the western entrance of the Pamban navigation. Valinokkam Port is a good harbour for coasting vessels during land winds. It was a sub-port of Kilakkarai Port. But it was closed in 1910. A beacon-tower, 20 feet in height, stands on Valinokkam point, and is a useful mark for vessels making the western entrance to Kilakkarai assage. Inland, there is a back-water lake extending 7 miles west with the greatest breadth of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. This is one of the villages affected by sea erosion. According to the local people, the present habitation is said to be the third habitation, the earlier two having been swallowed by the sea.

*Sembuli Ayyannar*, *Chinna Arakkasu Amman* temple, *Soorandayar* temple, *Sathappan* temple are the village deities in this village. There is a mosque in the style of a Hindu temple.

The southern coast consists of hard rocks. It is said *Utrako-samangai* temple was constructed partly out of the stones taken from here. Remnants of huge stones cut for the temple are still seen on the shore.

Fishing is the main profession of the people in the village. There are about 12 big boats and 10 small boats owned by the local fishermen. Fish net weaving is also done here. Lime is manufactured out of sea coral stone.

It has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post-Office.

*Varttirayiruppu (Watrap)*—(Srivilliputtur Taluk-Population-11,383) lies 12 miles north-west of Srivilliputtur and 48 miles south-west of Madurai and is connected by bus routes from Srivilliputtur and Madurai. To the north of it stands the Western Ghats. The principal feature of this portion of the mountain which is about 4,000 feet high is that the village Watrap is in the deep bay in the mountains. From this village a mountain pass (ghat) leads over into the Cumbum valley of Madurai District whence there is a road via Peermade into the Kerala State.

One Vatharoyar was the founder of this village. Hence the village was named after him as Watrayiruppu. This word in course of time was corrupted into the present day form, Watrap by which it is familiarly known now.

*Kasiviswanathaswamy* temple, *Sethunarayana* temple *Muthalayamman* temple and *Hanumar* temple are the four temples at this place. The festivals are not very important.

Brahmins stand foremost in the village who are the owners of entire wet lands and the tanks in the village. In about the year 1700 the village was divided into 43 divisions consisting of 430 shares among Brahmin population.

It is in this village Nallathangal drowned herself with her seven children in a well which was the subject matter of south Indian ballads. The well and the temple erected on the spot known as Nallathangal temple are still to be seen. In the month of *Purattasi*, a festival is celebrated by tailors all over the country and about 4,000 of them assemble for performing it. Remains of an old town are seen around this temple.

Fine bullock carts are made here by blacksmiths skilled in that particular technique. An engineering workshop with a lathe is catering to the local needs. A tailoring unit with 16 trainees is run by the Panchayat Union. Iron smelting was formerly conducted. The manufacture of coarse cloths, earthen pots and coarse mats are carried on. Irrigation is unfailing on account of the fertile valley and the *Arjuna* river flowing by the side of the village. From a very long time the irrigation system has been so perfected that not a drop of water is wasted. This village is famous for the good cultivation and fertility. There is a proposal for the construction of a dam called Pilavaikal Reservoir in the Western Ghats, 7 miles from Watrap.

This place was once the headquarters of a Deputy Tahsildar with magisterial powers. The old Sub-Jail, Sub-Magistrate's Court are now occupied by the Police Station and village *chavadi*. The Deputy Tahsildar's post was abolished in the year 1922. Now it is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union. A Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, a Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Post Office with telegraph and telephone connections, and an Electricity Board Supervisor's Office are situated here.

There is a Hindu High School and from 1956 the fishery rights of the tanks have been endowed to the High School by a registered deed for its maintenance. In 1878 a *chatram* was built. It now forms part of the high school. During the Chaduragiri festival pilgrims are permitted to stay in the *chatram*.

Dr. K. S. Krishnan, the renowned scientist of India, was born here. His full name was Karia Manickam Sreenivasa Krishnan. He was born on 4th December, 1898. After early schooling in Watrap and Srivilliputtur he studied in the American College at Madurai and latter in the Christian College, Madras. After graduating in Physics from the Christian College he was for a few years a demonstrator in the same college. He was also for some time, working as the head-master of the Hindu High School, Watrap. In 1923 he proceeded to Calcutta to work under Prof. C.V. Raman at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of

Science and took an abiding interest in optics and molecular physics. In 1928, Dr. Krishnan joined the Dacca University as Reader and published a number of Scientific papers during his 6 years stay there. When Prof. Raman left Calcutta in 1933 Dr. Krishnan was invited to take up the post of Professor of Physics in the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. In 1942, he was offered the post of Professor of Physics in the University of Allahabad. In 1947 Dr. Krishnan was appointed as the Director of the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, which post he held until his sudden demise on 14th June 1961.

*Vattanam* (Tiruvadanai Taluk-Population 962) a coastal village, is 5 miles north of Tondi and 13 miles north-east of Tiruvadanai. Karaikkudi is 39 miles on the north-west and Sivaganga is 46 miles on the south-west. Both Sivaganga and Karaikkudi are connected with bus service. The nearest railway station in Ramanathapuram District is Karaikkudi. The Arantangi railway station is 34 miles on the north in Thanjavur District.

Vattanam is a corruption of Pattanam by which coastal villages are known. Ibn Batuta, a Moorish traveller who stayed in the Madurai country as the guest of the Sultan of Madurai, mentions this place in his accounts of this country. Marco Polo also refers to this place in his accounts.

There is an old *Siva* temple dedicated to *Kasiviswanathar* and *visalakshi*. Besides there are temples dedicated to *Lord vishnu* and *Ayyanar*. There is also a Church.

There is an old salt factory but the exact date or origin of this factory is not known. But the existence of this factory dates back to the close of the year 1855 as is revealed from the licences issued. This factory worked under monopoly system until 1884. The excise system of manufacture came into force from 1883. The factory is under the jurisdiction of the Circle Officer at Tuticorin. The area of the factory is 58.16 acres. Unlike many other factories, this factory entirely depends upon springs and pot ring wells sunk between the quarters and seashore.

The salt produced in this factory is confined to places within Ramanathapuram District. Salt is removed by means of bullock carts. Lorries could not ply on account of three unbridged streams between Tondi and Vattanam.

The factory consists of 72 licensees. There are roughly 3200 crystallisers of size 22' x 10' (Average) with as many as 544 condensers very irregular in shape and size. There are no reservoirs in this factory and the ratio between the crystallisers and the condensing area is roughly 1 : 1.56.

Sea water is charged into condensers at 3 degrees Be. From there it is led into beds called crystallisers. By solar evaporation the sodium chloride separates at 24° to 29° Be. The rest of the sea

brine called bitter is thrown out. Fresh sea brine is charged and the process continues. The percentage of sodium chloride in the common salt at this factory is 96.86 maximum and 93.43 minimum. Though the sea is very near, the sea water has to be lifted for about a mile before bringing it to the factory to charge the crystallisers. The production and removals for the past three years is as below :—

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Production in quintals.</i> | <i>Removal in quintals.</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1961        | 27,664.7                       | 23,241.6                    |
| 1962        | 21,428.0                       | 29,342.2                    |
| 1963        | 22,344.0                       | 25,402.4                    |

This place has a Panchayat Office, a branch Post-Office and a Maternity Centre.

*Vedalai* (Ramanathapuram Taluk—Population 1828) is a coastal village on the Gulf of Manar four miles west of Mantapam and 20 miles east of Ramanathapuram. The Ramanathapuram—Mantapam Road passes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away from this village.

This place was supposed to have been named after the devil *Vedalam* narrated in the *Vikramadityan* stories.

Palm leaf articles and palm gur are manufactured here. Being a coastal village, it is an important fishing centre. Coral stones are transported from here to cement factories. Muslims are the predominant population of this village. Chank fishing is also undertaken.

There is an *urani* (Reservoir) in this village. It is said to cure diseases. There are some inscriptions on the reservoir.

It has a Panchayat Office and a branch Post-Office.

There is one ruined *chatram*.

*Veeracholan* (Aruppukkottai Taluk—Population 4,463) on the southern bank of the *Gridhumal* river, lies 10 miles south-west of Partibanur,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Narikkudi and 25 miles east of Aruppukkottai. From Manamadurai it is 18 miles to the south. Buses are running to the village. The nearest railway station is Narikkudi.

Rajaraja Cholan established himself in this place after defeating Pandya King. At this place his army became more courageous. Hence it was named after him as Veera Cholan meaning *Veera* in Tamil courageous and *Cholan* the name of the dynasty.



This village was the traditional residence of Chola King, former residence of Rajas and of great importance. It abounds with remains of antiquity. There is an old *Siva* temple called *Kailasanadhasamy*, now in ruins, attributed to Vikrama Pandyan founded by *Gowthama Rishi*. A *Vishnu* temple with a splendid idol containing stone inscriptions is attributed to Sundarapandyan. Besides, there are a *Vinayagar* temple and temples for other village deities. Present population consists of mostly Muhammadans who immigrated to this place about 200 years ago. Two mosques and three *Dargas* viz., (1) Peer Masthan *Darga*; (2) Muhammad Abu Backer *Darga*; and (3) Kamrudean *Darga* are prominent. There is a Roman Catholic Church also.

Kaviraj Pandithar of Vembathur who translated *Anandha Lahar* and *Soundarya Lahari* into Tamil from Sanskrit and the author of many works such as *Ananda-Nayaki Malai*, etc., spent his last days at this place. His tomb is behind the *Siva* temple.

It is famous for peacocks. A peacock farm subsidised by Government with a sum of Rs. 500 contains more than 500 birds. They are offered for a nominal fee to parks and to genuine lovers peacocks for rearing.

Originally the Muslims were famous weavers of all kinds of cloths. Within 100 years, all of them turned out as traders in Burma. Ground-nut is cultivated in large scale around these parts.

It has a Panchayat Office, a Post and Telegraph Office, a high school, a Maternity Centre and a *Madhar Sangam*.

Weekly market is held on Monday wherein, groceries, vegetables, grains, pulses, dried fish, hen and sheep are sold.

The system of collecting *Mahimai* fund is in vogue among the Muslim community who number about 1,000 families in the village. This fund has enabled them to improve the village. The beautiful big *Pallivasal*, over-head tank, separate bath room for Muslim women, a high school, two Arabi and Urudu schools, a Muslim reading room are some of the notable facilities available at this place.

*Velangudi*.—(Tiruppattur Taluk. Population 2,662) though a separate revenue village, forms part of Kottaiyur town. It lies 17 miles north-east of Tiruppattur and four miles north of Karaikkudi. The nearest railway station is Kottaiyur on the Madras—Dhanushkodi line, and it is 2 furlongs from the village. Number of buses are plying as the village is situated on the Kariakkudi—Tiruchirapali road.

Long ago this was a forest area known as Kandagapurivilvaranayam. Lord *Subramanya*, who is also known as *Velan*, performed *pooja* to *Siva* here. Hence this place was called Velangudi meaning Velan's habitation.

Of the traditional nine places granted by the Pandya Kings to Nattukottai Chettiyars to settle them in the Pandya Kingdom where in the Chettiyars built nine Nagarathar temples and lived in nine separate sections, this village is one among them. The old Nagarathar temple which contained many inscriptions was originally on the northern part of the village. It was demolished as it was in bad state of repairs and a new temple was constructed and the *Ashatabandana Kumbabishekam* was performed on June 18, 1937. It took 27 long years to complete the construction of this temple. The *Garbagraham Arthamandapam*, *Nahamandapam*, *Prakaramandapam*, *Thirumalaigaipathi* and the *Gopuram* are constructed out of stones at a cost of about Rs. 10½ lakhs. The temple is dedicated to *Kandeeswaraswami* and *Kamatchiambal*. *Siva* is facing east while the goddess is facing south. Like other Nagarathar temples there is no architectural work in this temple. On the south of this temple, there are temples dedicated to *Vishnu*, *Dakshnamoorthy* and *Vinayagar* besides a stone reservoir.

As this village forms part of Kottaiyur all the offices are situated in Kottaiyur.

*Vembakottai*.—(Sattur Taluk Population—2,246)—the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of that name is on the road leading to Rajapalayam from Sivakasi. Roads from Elayirampennai and Sattur converge at Vembakottai. It is 8 miles south of Sivakasi and buses are plying to the place. The village is situated on the northern bank of the Vaipar. The large irrigation tank of its name flanks on the northern side of the village.

Vembakottai is a corruption of Venpulkottai meaning Garuda's (*Ven* in Tamil means white and *pul* in Tamil means bird) Fort. It appears that this sacred bird guided the early builders to locate the fort here, hovering round the spot. Hence the name. There is another version for the origin of the name. It is said to be derived from *Vembu* in Tamil meaning to be scorched and *kottai* is fort. The name means scorched fort. One Nayak chieftain marched over this place and destroyed the fort. Since then it was known as Vembakottai. The ruins include the remains of a temple.

There is a *Chockkanathaswamy* temple in this village, containing inscriptions. Kandia Thevar and Pandia Thevar are said to be founders of this temple and their statues are seen on the pillars of the temple. Close to the chavadi there is a tiny temple. This is said to mark the place where one Shenbagavalli, daughter of Shenbagarajan who was ruling over this area, committed suicide. This temple is known as *Arasanakkal* temple. This deed was supposed to have happened when Sundaranganathan, a Nayak chieftain of the north, marched to this place for marrying Shenbagavalli after driving away her father. As a consequence, she committed suicide. There are other minor temples of no importance.

A Panchayat Union Office, a Panchayat Office, a Police Station, a National Malaria Eradication Programme Branch Office, a Veterinary Hospital, a branch Post-Office, a Panchayat Union Higher Elementary School are located in the village.

The Sivakasi Municipality Pumping Station which is located here pumps water from the *Vaipar* river to Sivakasi.

*Virudhunagar* (Sattur Taluk—Population 54,827) is the headquarters of an Independent Deputy Tahsildar. It is 31 miles south of Madurai 17 miles north of Sattur and 18 miles west of Sivakasi. It is a first-class municipal town. Buses are plying from this place in all directions.

Virudhunagar was known as Virudhupatty. Some 360 years ago, a warrior, who was in possession of a number of flags in token of having conquered many other, challenged the residents of this town. A resident of the town accepted this challenge and in the fight killed the warrior and seized his flags. From then the town known as Virudhukkalvetti. *Virudhukkal* in Tamil means banners and *patti* in Tamil means a hamlet. The railway station at this place was originally named as Virudhukkalvetti but subsequently in 1875 was altered into Virudhupatty. On 6th April 1923 the Council changed the name of the town as Virudhunagar.

The town was constituted into a Municipality in the year 1915. It was upgraded as a first-class municipality on 1st November 1957. Virudhunagar is a big trading centre. The principal trade is cotton and cotton goods. Merchants from various places like Coimbatore, Madurai, Bombay, etc. come to this place for purchasing. Dried chillies, groundnut oil, coriander seeds, jaggery, grains etc., are exported to other places. There are a number of wholesalers in black and red gram, gingili, coffee seeds, pepper, arecanut, chillies, etc. There is a Commercial Crop Regulated Market for cotton, chillies and groundnut. Compulsory quality control of chillies was introduced with effect from January 1, 1963. Chillies cannot be exported out of India unless they are graded and packed according to statutory Agmark grades. The Spices Export Promotion Council, Ernakulam, administers the quality control scheme. For this purpose a laboratory has been set up at Virudhunagar. During March and April 1963, 30,064 bags of chillies were exported. Chillies of M.S.S. (Madras Sannam Special) and M.S.G. (Madras Sannam General) grades fetched a premium of Rs. 12 per c.w.t. over Japanese chillies in Ceylon.

There are five big ginning factories and ten small ginning factories. The Virudhunagar Textile Mills on the Sattur Road and the Ayyanar Textile Mills on the Virudhunagar-Mallanginar road are located here. Besides there are one Steel Rolling Mills, one Indian Textile Paper Tube Company and one Match Factory. There are six banks in the town.

A new Marshelling yard was pressed into commission on Monday 7th January 1963 at a cost of Rs. 33,37,650. A chord line has been laid from Virudhunagar to Manamadurai.

A water supply scheme for the Municipality at a cost of rupees 73.44 lakhs is under execution. The Madras-Cape Comorin Bypass road work is also in progress. An underground drainage scheme at a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs has been included in the Fourth Plan.

There is a College for boys which was founded on 11th August 1947. There is another for women in Virudhunagar which was started in 1963. There is also a Polytechnic for boys which provides Diploma Courses in Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering. This institution was started on 21st July 1958. There are 3 boys' high school and 2 girls' high schools. Virudhunagar is able to spend large amounts on education because of the establishment of *Mahimai* Fund. A fixed rate of amount is collected from both sellers and purchasers and this collection is called *Mahimai* Fund. Mainly from this fund and from other sources the Nadars are conducting charities, most important being running of high schools. At Virudhunagar, Nadars have forced themselves ahead of other castes by sheer force of character and have risen enormously in the social scale by their eagerness for education and by their thrifty habits.

An Independent Deputy Tahsildar's Office, a Sub-Treasury Office, a Police Station, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Fire Station, a Commercial Tax Officer's Office, an Assistant Commercial Tax Officer's Office and a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer's Office, three Income Tax Offices, a District Educational Office, a Divisional Engineer's (Electrical) Office, an Agmark Office, a Quality Control Officer, a Sub-Magistrate's Office, an Additional First-Class Magistrate's Office, the Ramanathapuram Market Committee Office, Office of the Inspector of Weights and Measures, an Assistant Engineer's (Food Production) Office, a Government Hospital for men and women and a Maternity Home are located here.

There is a *Mariamman* temple in which the festival in *Panguni* is celebrated by Nadars for 10 days. It attracts a large crowd of people from different parts of the country. An exhibition is held on the occasion. Festival in *Veluhanthamman* temple is held in *Chithirai*.

A well furnished Municipal travellers' bungalow with 6 suits is located on the Madurai road. Besides, there is a municipal choultry on the railway feeder road.

Twenty-three sports clubs are functioning in this town. Besides, there are four District Associations for foot-ball, badminton, basket ball and volley ball.

V. V. V. Anbu Illam and Jothi Bakthi Girls' Association are the two orphanages run by private individuals in this town. The Municipality is running a beggar home to accommodate about 40 persons.

*V. Surakkudi*—(Tiruppattur Taluk—Population 244) two miles south of Kanadukathan, 6 miles north of Karaikkudi and 13 miles north-east of Tiruppattur has a few buses running from Karaikkudi. Chettinad, the nearest railway station on the Madras-Dhanushkodi railway line is within 2 miles. There is a Panchayat Office at this place.

The name is from *sura*, a thorny plant, and *kudy* meaning village. It was a *Sura* plant forest area and the village took its name from it. There is also a story which states that *Sura Padman* (Suran) a giant worshipped *Siva* here and the village was named after him in his memory. It is distinguished from another village of the same name by prefixing 'V' denoting Velangudi which is an adjacent village.

It is one of the group of nine temples of Nattukkottai Chettiyars. It is said to have been built about 100 years ago. It has a *gopuram* of about 50 feet height. Half a mile south of this temple is an old *Siva* temple under the management of Sivaganga *Samasthanam*. The story goes that Vanniah King who lived here built the temple. The Sun God is supposed to have worshipped here. In testimony of it a separate temple for Sun God is built which is not found elsewhere. A temple is also dedicated to *Lord Ganesa* under an old *Ilandai* tree which is the *Sthala Viruksha*.



## APPENDIX TO CHAPTER XIX.

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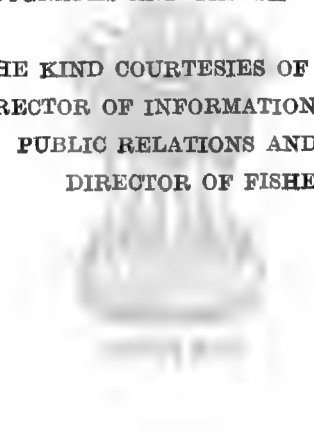
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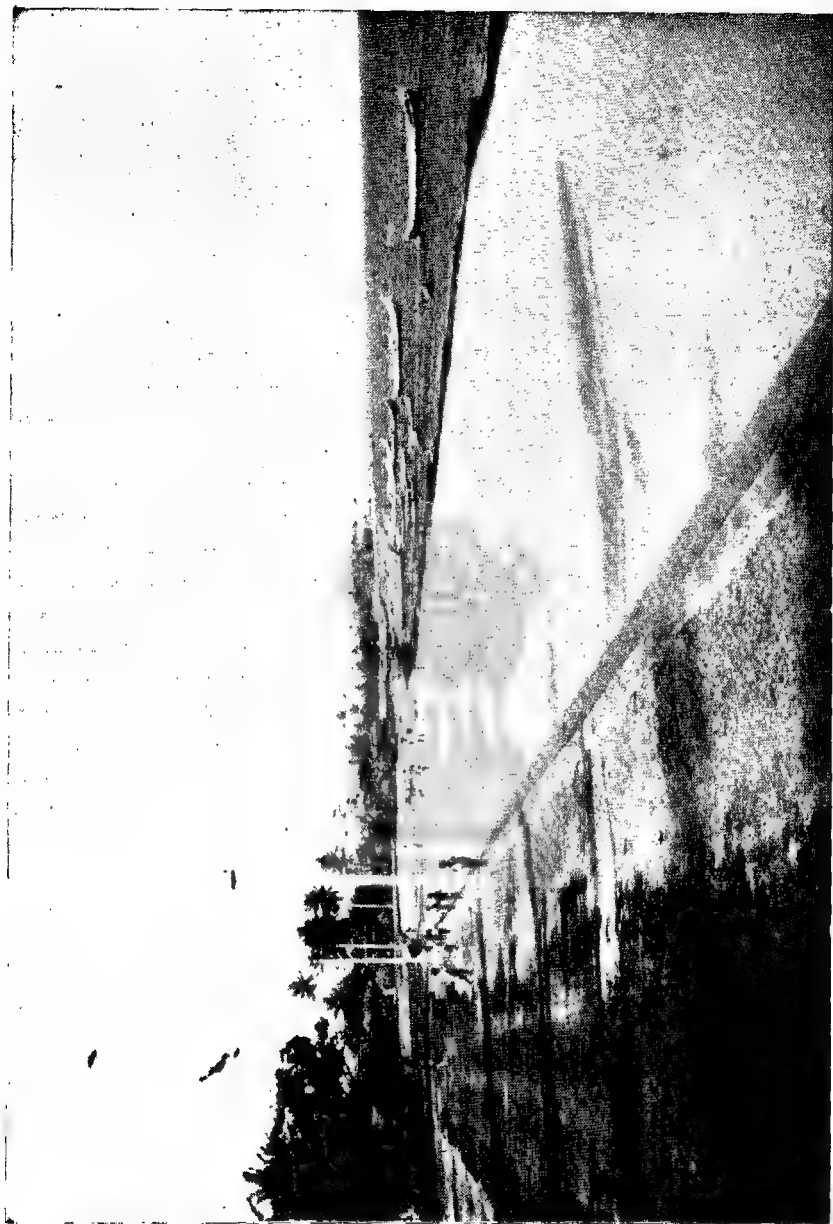


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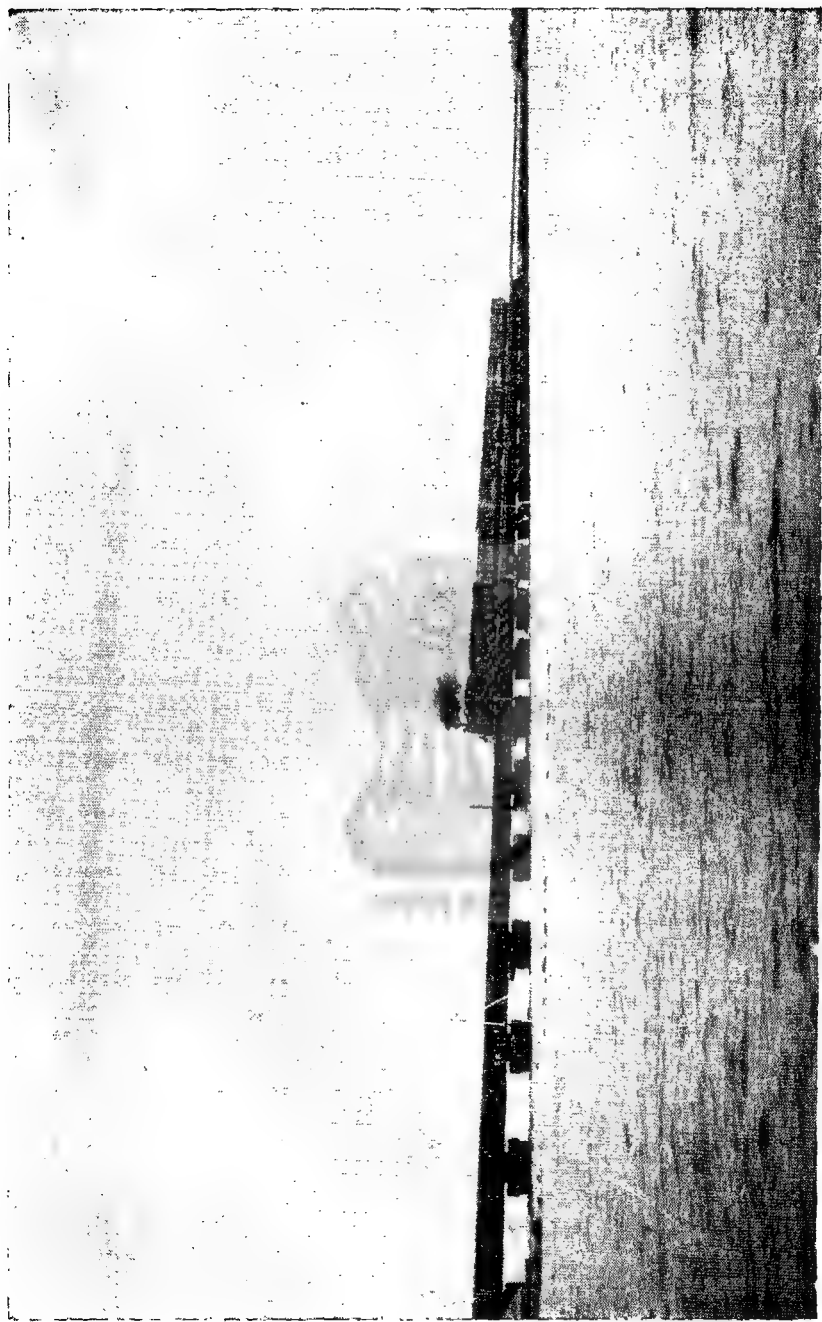
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DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND  
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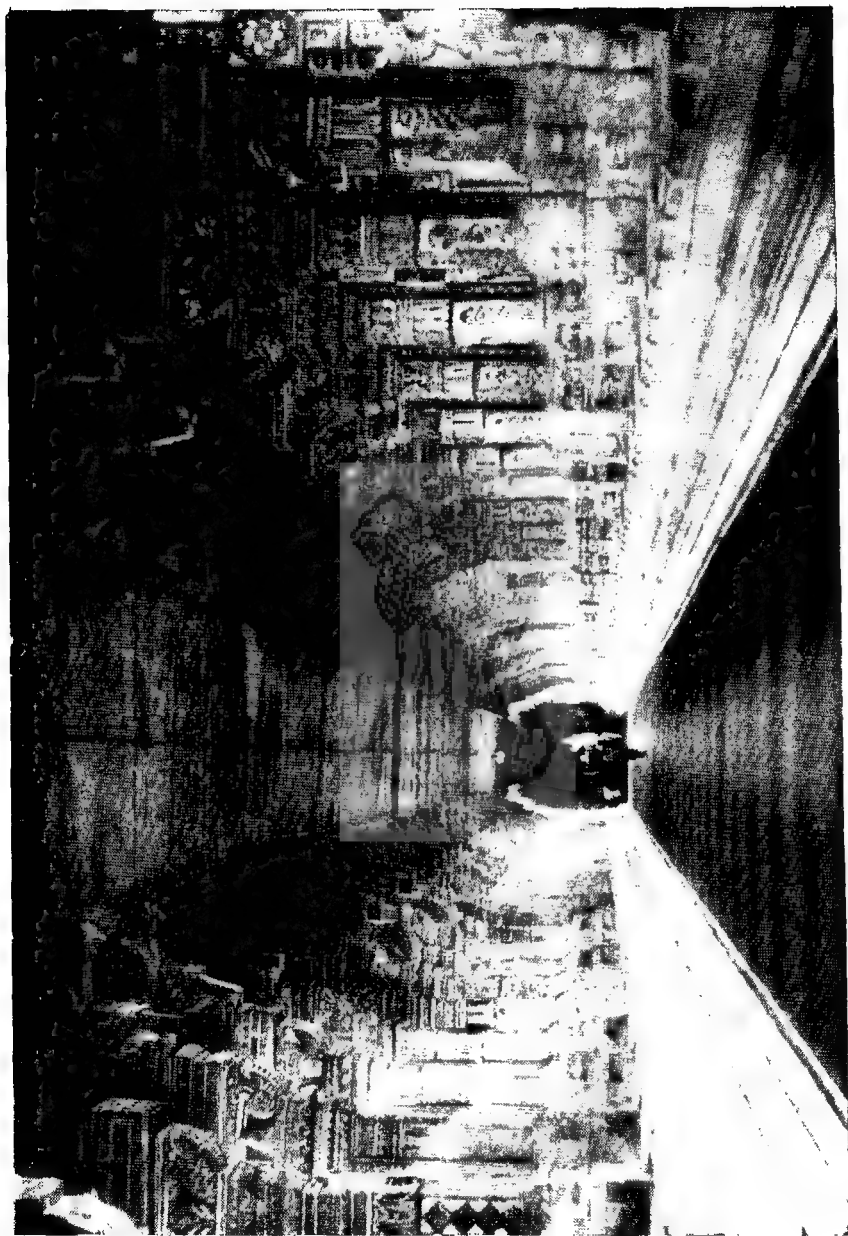


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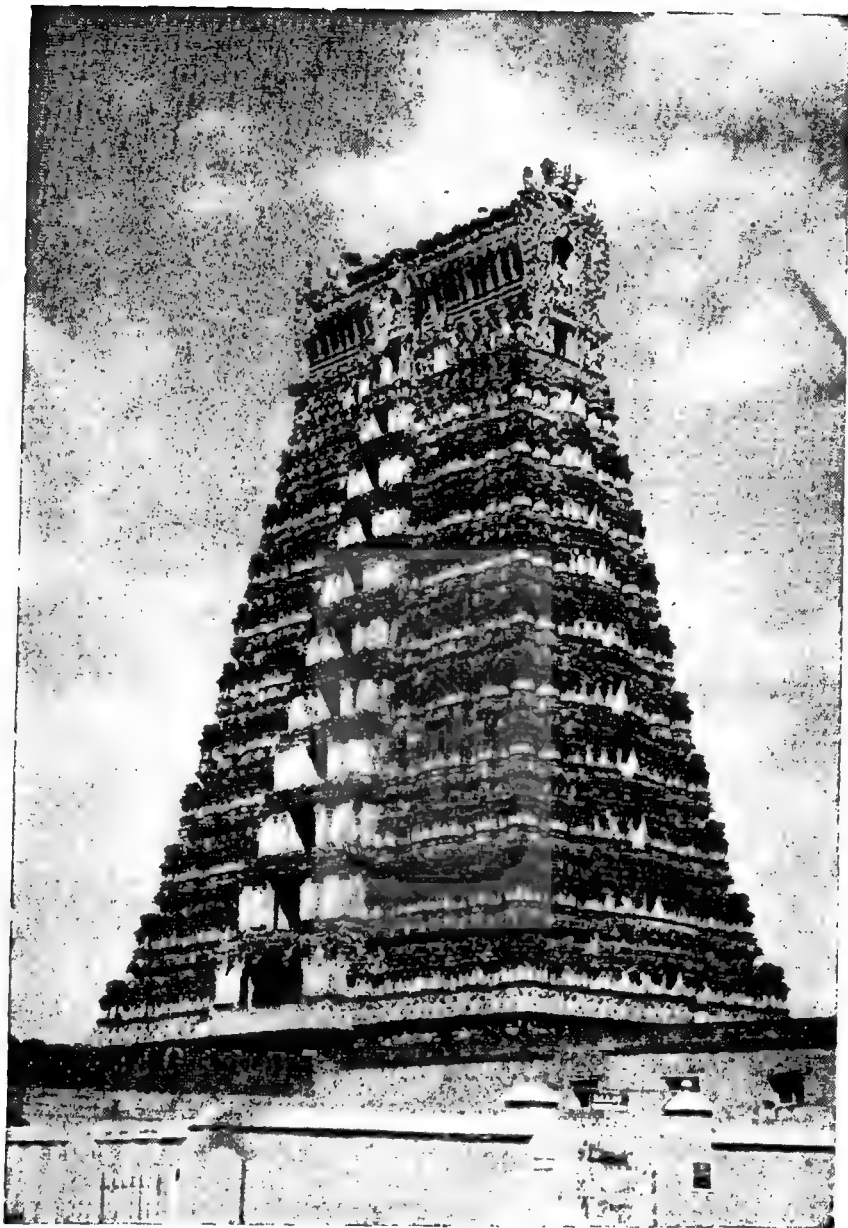
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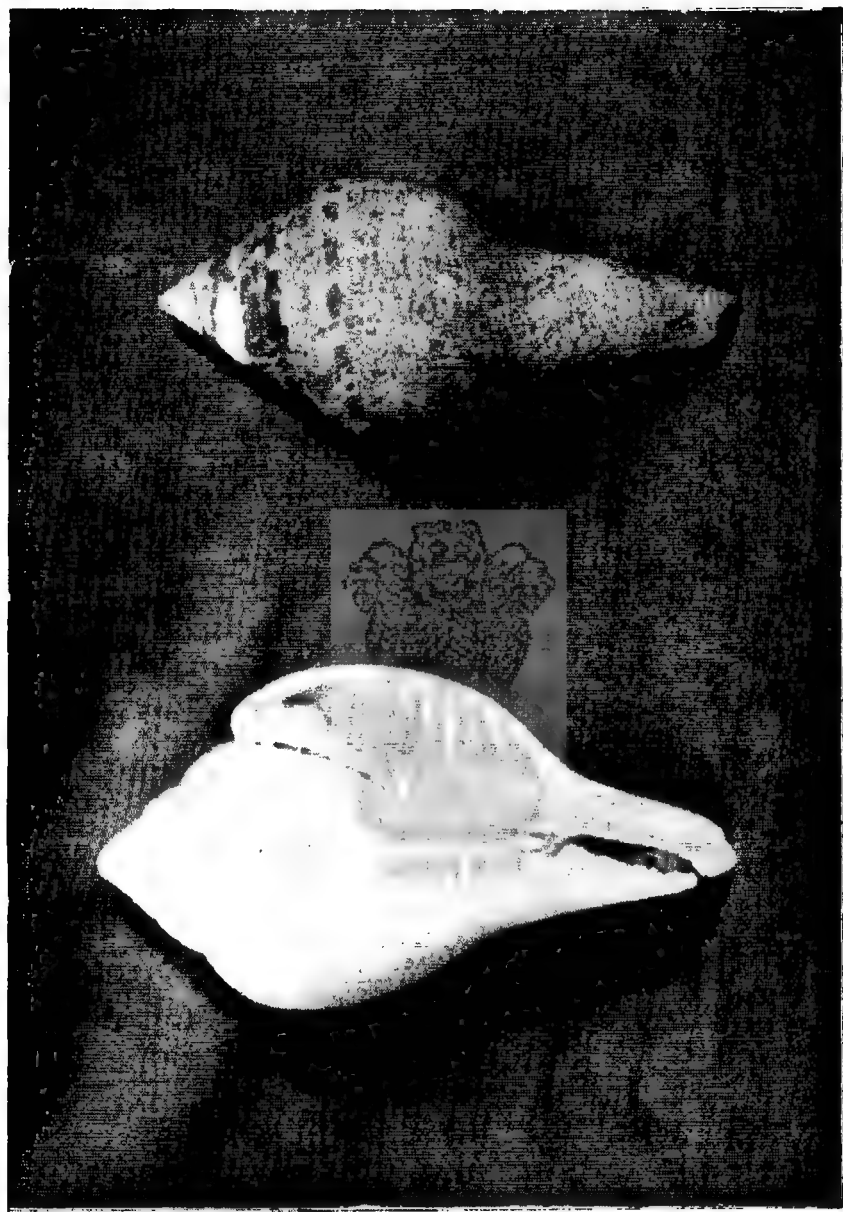
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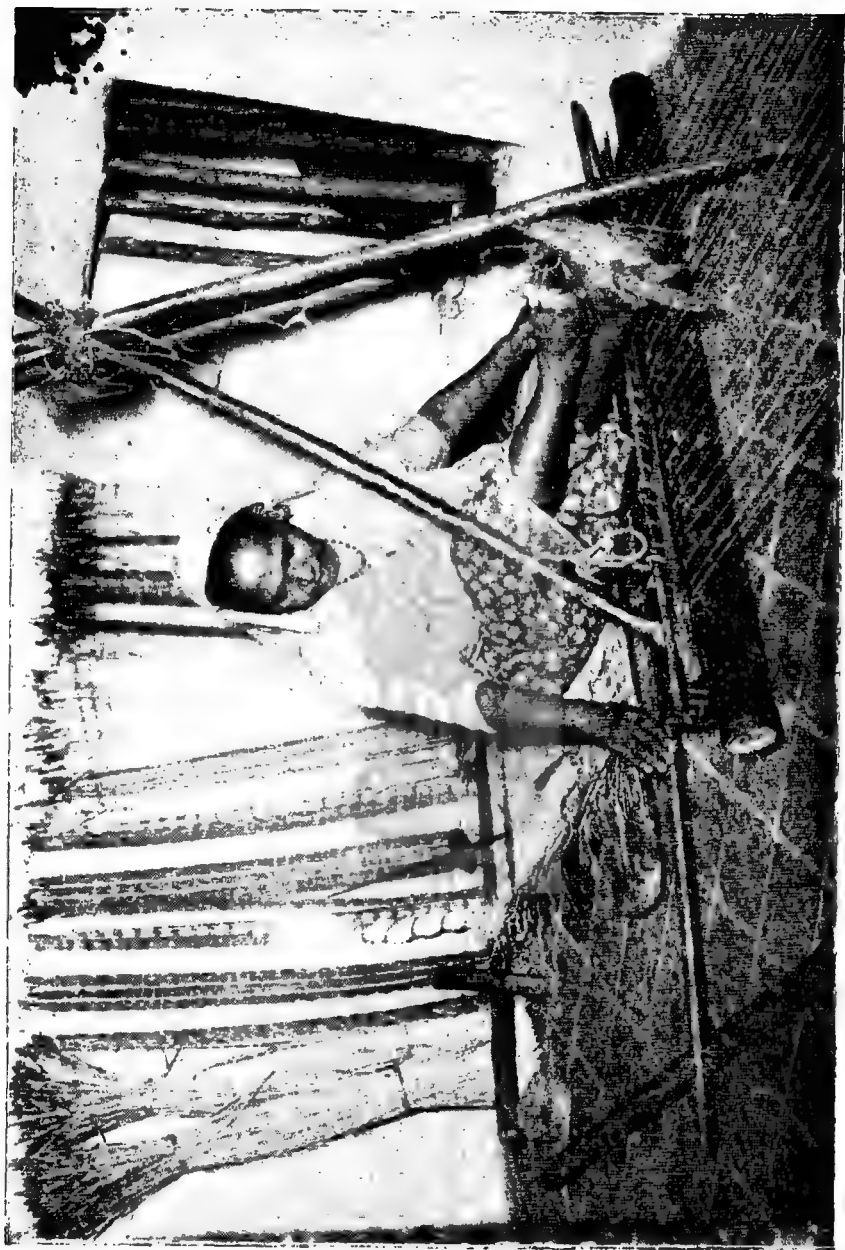


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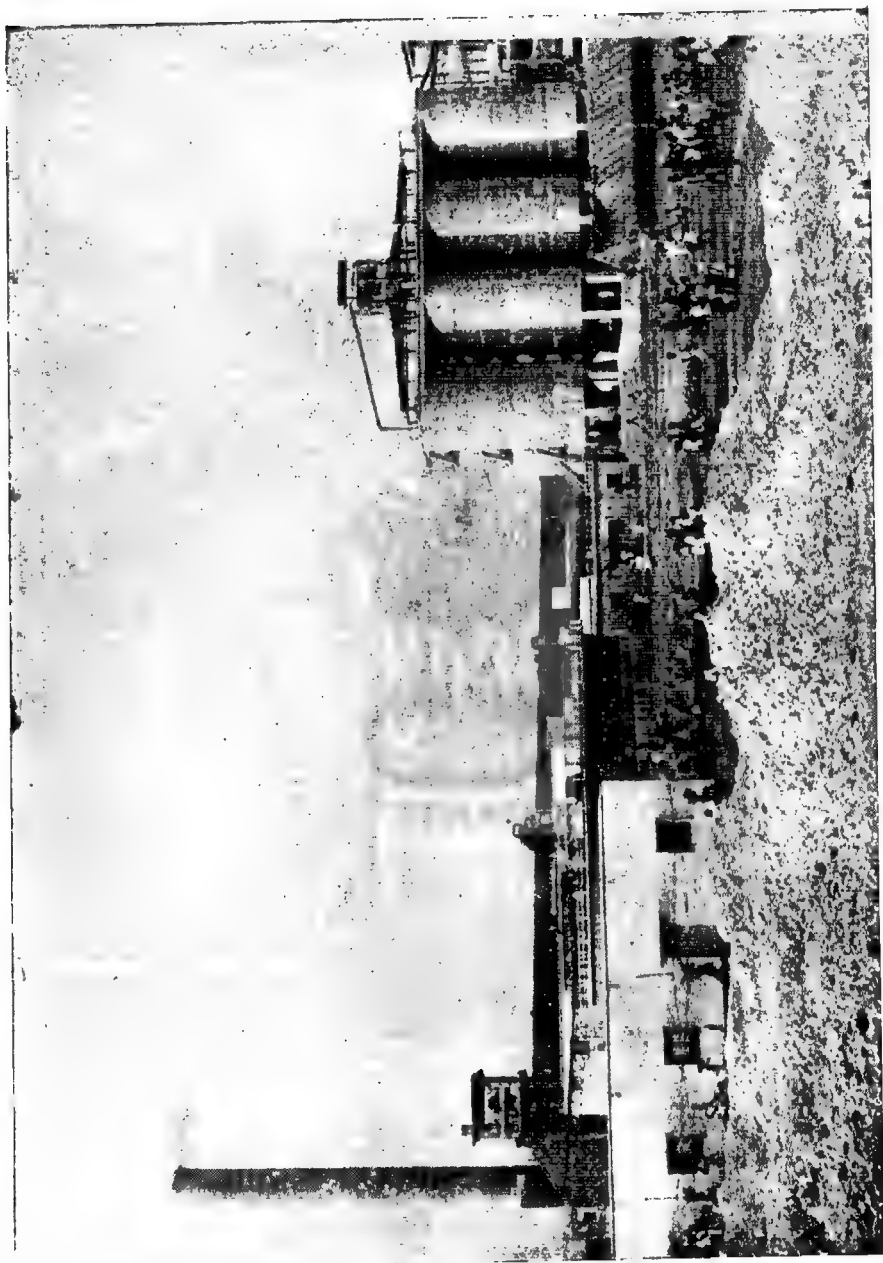
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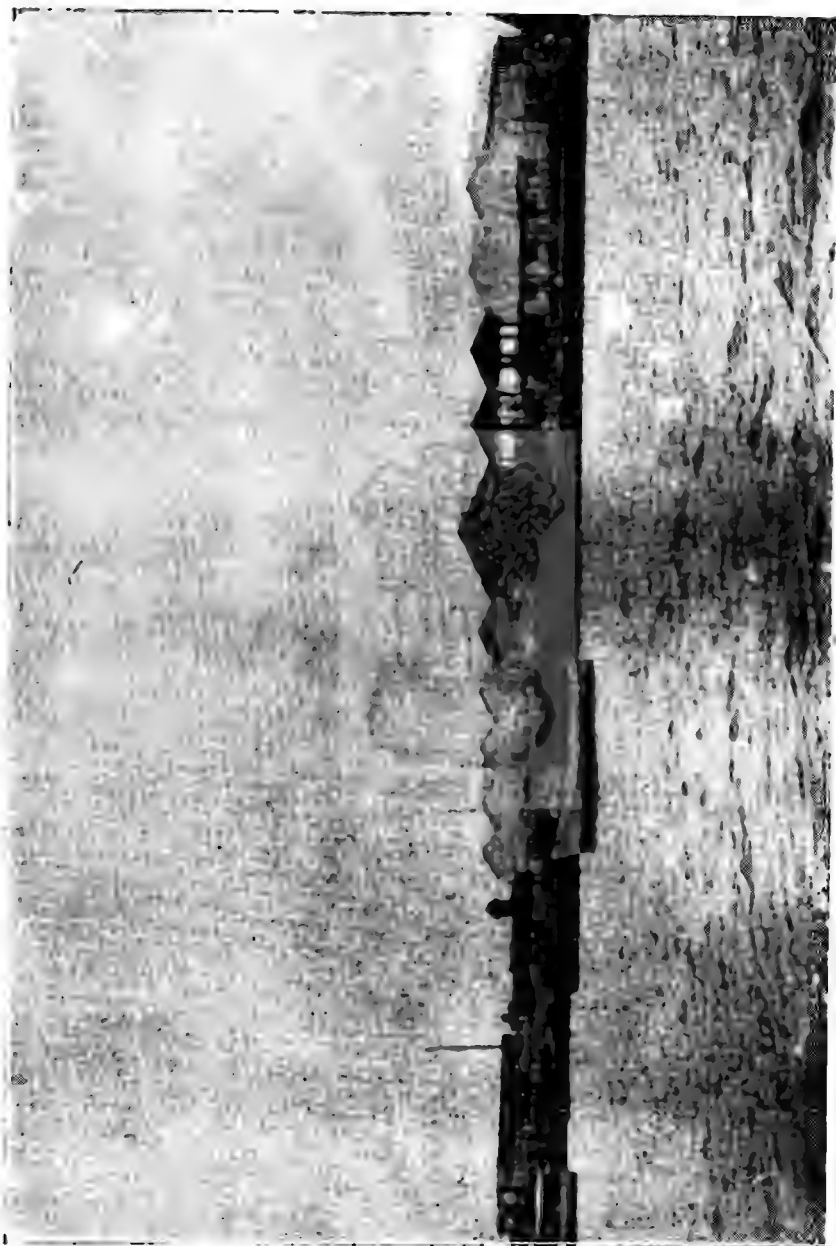
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## GLOSSARY.

|                         |    |  |
|-------------------------|----|--|
| ADAI .. .. .            | .. | Garment.   |
| ADIGARIGAL .. .. .      | .. | Officers of trust in the army and in the Administrative Department of Government.                                    |
| AGRAHARAM .. .. .       | .. | A street of Brahmin houses.  |
| AMANI .. .. .           | .. | Collections of revenue direct from the cultivators by the Officers of Government.                                    |
| AMBALAKARAN .. .. .     | .. | Headman, a chief of the Kallars.   |
| ANAIMADU .. .. .        | .. | Water hole frequented by elephants.  |
| ANGAVASTHARAM .. .. .   | .. | Upper cloth.   |
| ANNAPRASANAM .. .. .    | .. | Food giving ceremony for the child with rice for the first time.   |
| ARASAN .. .. .          | .. | King.  |
| ARUPPU .. .. .          | .. | Reaping harvest.   |
| ARUVAL .. .. .          | .. | Sickle.  |
| ATMAN .. .. .           | .. | The soul.  |
| BABUL .. .. .           | .. | Gum-arabic tree.   |
| BOMMALATTAM .. .. .     | .. | Puppet show.   |
| BOTTU .. .. .           | .. | Sacred ornament tied around the neck of the bride at the time of marriage.   |
| CHATRAM .. .. .         | .. | Choultry.  |
| CHAVADI .. .. .         | .. | Rest house.  |
| CHEMBU .. .. .          | .. | A small metal vessel.  |
| CHOULAM .. .. .         | .. | Tonsure ceremony (the first shaving of a child's head).  |
| COWL (or) COWLE .. .. . | .. | A promise, grant, lease.   |
| DAROGHAS .. .. .        | .. | Police officers.   |
| DESAKAVAL .. .. .       | .. | District watch, a fee charged for the exercise of a guardianship over roads and wastes and levied by the Palayakars. |
| DEVADANAM .. .. .       | .. | Lands or allowances for the support of a temple.   |
| DHANUS .. .. .          | .. | Bow.   |
| DHARMASANA .. .. .      | .. | Seat of justice.   |
| DHONIES .. .. .         | .. | Country boats.   |
| DUBASHIES .. .. .       | .. | An interpreter, a middle man and guide.  |
| FASLI .. .. .           | .. | Revenue or harvest era, beginning from 591 A.D. The fasli year is from July to June.                                 |
| FOUJDARI ADALAT .. .. . | .. | East India Company's Supreme Court of appeal (criminal).   |
| GANDHAM .. .. .         | .. | Fragrance.   |
| GOTRAS .. .. .          | .. | Family lineage, tribe, race.   |
| GRAHAM .. .. .          | .. | Planet.  |
| GRAMA DEVATAS .. .. .   | .. | Village deities.   |
| GUMASTHA .. .. .        | .. | A clerk.   |
| HOMAM .. .. .           | .. | Sacrificial fire.  |
| HUNDI .. .. .           | .. | A bill of exchange.  |
| INAM .. .. .            | .. | A favour, land granted free of tax only slightly assessed.   |
| IRAI .. .. .            | .. | Tax or revenue.  |

|                       |    |    |    |    |   |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| .. .. .               | .. | .. | .. | .. | A rent free land, a rent free tenure,   |
| JALLIKATTU            | .. | .. | .. | .. | A wild game of pursuing and grappling a bull.                                       |
| JAVALI                | .. | .. | .. | .. | A form of music.  |
| JILLA (ZILLAH)        | .. | .. | .. | .. | A district.   |
| KADAL                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | Sea.  |
| KARAHAM               | .. | .. | .. | .. | A kind of folk dance with a decorated pot on the head.                              |
| KARAI                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | Sea shore (or) bank.  |
| KARNATHAR (or) KARNAM | .. | .. | .. | .. | Village revenue accountant.   |
| KAVALGARS             | .. | .. | .. | .. | Village watchmen who were remunerated for these services for a small fee.           |
| KIRTHANAM             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A song of praise to God or a sacred hymn.   |
| KIST                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Tax.  |
| KOLATTAM              | .. | .. | .. | .. | A play with sticks accompanied with singing and dancing.                            |
| KOTTAI                | .. | .. | .. | .. | Fort.   |
| KOTTAMS               | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ancient territorial divisions in the ancient Tamilnadu.                             |
| KOTWALS               | .. | .. | .. | .. | Chief police officer for a town or a superintendent of markets.                     |
| KUDI                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Habitation or village.  |
| KUDIKAVAL             | .. | .. | .. | .. | Village watch, a fee was remunerated for the services.                              |
| KURAVANJI             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A folk dance drama.   |
| KUTCHA                | .. | .. | .. | .. | Saltish.  |
| LAVANAM               | .. | .. | .. | .. | Common salt.  |
| MAHAJANAMS            | .. | .. | .. | .. | General public.   |
| MAHAR                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | Bride price.  |
| MAISTRIS              | .. | .. | .. | .. | Overseers.  |
| MALAI                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | Mountain.   |
| MANDALAM              | .. | .. | .. | .. | Province.   |
| MANIYAKAR             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A revenue officer of a village, village munsif (or) the superintendent of a temple. |
| MANJIVIRATTU          | .. | .. | .. | .. | Chasing of ceremonial bulls.  |
| MANRAM                | .. | .. | .. | .. | A place of assembly.  |
| MANTRAS               | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hymns or a form of prayer.  |
| MARI                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Rain.   |
| MEEKAB                | .. | .. | .. | .. | A boat.   |
| MELVARAM              | .. | .. | .. | .. | The proportion of the crop claimed by the Government.                               |

|                            |    |    |    |    |  |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|--|
| MUNSIF .. .. .             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A judge who decides civil suits.   |
| NADU .. .. .               | .. | .. | .. | .. | Unit of administration (or) realm.   |
| NAMAKARNAM .. .. .         | .. | .. | .. | .. | The ceremony of naming a child.  |
| NATTAMAICKARAR .. .. .     | .. | .. | .. | .. | A chief or a headman of the village.   |
| NAVAGRAHAM .. .. .         | .. | .. | .. | .. | The nine planets of the Hindu astrology.   |
| NISCHAYATHARTHAM .. .. .   | .. | .. | .. | .. | Betrothal.   |
| NYAYATHAR .. .. .          | .. | .. | .. | .. | A committee of judges.   |
| OYLATTAM .. .. .           | .. | .. | .. | .. | A kind of folk dance with graceful gestures.   |
| PADIYAL .. .. .            | .. | .. | .. | .. | A hired servant in farm usually receiving wages in grain.  |
| PAGODA .. .. .             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A gold coin, a Hindu temple.   |
| PALAYAM .. .. .            | .. | .. | .. | .. | A tract of country ruled by a petty chieftain.   |
| PANNAI .. .. .             | .. | .. | .. | .. | A large farm establishment.  |
| PANNAIYAL .. .. .          | .. | .. | .. | .. | A ploughman; an agricultural labourer permanently attached to the farm.  |
| PARAI .. .. .              | .. | .. | .. | .. | A drum.  |
| PATHAIKAVAL .. .. .        | .. | .. | .. | .. | Service of watching roads and mountain passes.   |
| PATTA .. .. .              | .. | .. | .. | .. | Title deed; document given by sovereign power recognizing the title of a ryot to his holding.                      |
| PESHKUSH .. .. .           | .. | .. | .. | .. | Land revenue remitted by Zamindars or Poligars to the Government as a kind of quit-rent.                           |
| POIKKALKUDHIRAI .. .. .    | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dummy horse dance (a folk dance).  |
| POLIGAR .. .. .            | .. | .. | .. | .. | Holder of Palayam or feudal estate.  |
| PORAMBOKE .. .. .          | .. | .. | .. | .. | Land exempted from assessment, either because it is set aside for communal purposes or because it is uncultivable. |
| PRADHANI .. .. .           | .. | .. | .. | .. | Prime Minister, chief.   |
| PUNYAHAVACHANAM .. .. .    | .. | .. | .. | .. | A purification ceremony.   |
| PUSHPAKA (VIMANAM) .. .. . | .. | .. | .. | .. | An aerial car of mythology.  |
| RANA-VAIDHYAM .. .. .      | .. | .. | .. | .. | Surgery.   |
| RUDRAKSHAM .. .. .         | .. | .. | .. | .. | The nuts of the Elaeocarpus used as beads in the rosaries of Saivites.   |
| SABHA .. .. .              | .. | .. | .. | .. | An assemblage of persons of rank or respectability.  |
| SADR ADALAT .. .. .        | .. | .. | .. | .. | Company's supreme court of appeal (civil).   |
| SADR AMINS .. .. .         | .. | .. | .. | .. | A class of native civil judges.  |
| SAPTHAPATHI .. .. .        | .. | .. | .. | .. | Taking of the seven steps by the married couple.   |
| SASANAM .. .. .            | .. | .. | .. | .. | Document (or) a royal grant.   |

**T**

|                    |    |    |    |    |  |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|--|
| <b>TAKKAVI</b>     | .. | .. | .. | .. | Advances of money made by the Government to the cultivators at the time of sowing or on other specified occasions. |
| <b>TALAIYARI</b>   | .. | .. | .. | .. | A village watchman.  |
| <b>TALI</b>        | .. | .. | .. | .. | Tiny gold ornament in an yellow thread tied round the neck of the bride at the time of marriage.                   |
| <b>TALUK</b>       | .. | .. | .. | .. | A sub-division of a district.  |
| <b>TANADARS</b>    | .. | .. | .. | .. | Police officers.   |
| <b>TARAM</b>       | .. | .. | .. | .. | Classification of soil groups for purposes of revenue settlement.  |
| <b>THAVANAI</b>    | .. | .. | .. | .. | A term of fixed time of payment, etc.  |
| <b>TIRVAI</b>      | .. | .. | .. | .. | Money assessment of revenue on land.   |
| <b>TUPPU COOLY</b> | .. | .. | .. | .. | A search fee paid to agents to trace the stolen cattle.  |

**V**

|                   |    |    |    |    |   |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|---|
| <b>UPANAYANAM</b> | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ceremony of first wearing of the sacred thread. |
| <b>UR</b>         | .. | .. | .. | .. | Village or a town.                              |
| <b>URANI</b>      | .. | .. | .. | .. | A well or tank.                                 |

**U**

|                 |    |    |    |    |                       |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------------|
| <b>VAITHYAN</b> | .. | .. | .. | .. | A physician.          |
| <b>VANAM</b>    | .. | .. | .. | .. | Garden (or) forest.   |
| <b>VARIAMS</b>  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Administrative Board. |
| <b>VARIYAR</b>  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Temple official.      |
| <b>VATHIAR</b>  | .. | .. | .. | .. | School master.        |
| <b>VAYAL</b>    | .. | .. | .. | .. | Field.                |
| <b>VIVAKAM</b>  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Marriage ceremony.    |



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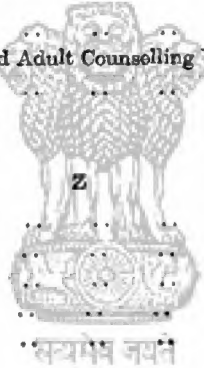
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Scale 1 Inch = 8 Miles  
(1 cm = 5068 . 8 Metres)

**TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**

SATURDAY

Table name

Discrete boundary

Distributors: worldwide

**Public boundaries**

These reports are

Village site. Ten

National Highway

Major Diabetes risk

Other Diarrheal and

### Willows roots

Matthew, Jonathan  
and  
Jonathan

Silver salt streptococci

**Therapeutic (Control) n**

Vertical Hauling Caisson

### Discussion of findings

Olivetti M, et al.

F. W. D. Longstaffe

B. P. Choudhary,†

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 4. *Healthcare Services*  
 5. *Medical Research*  
 6. *Health Insurance*  
 7. *Medical Education*  
 8. *Healthcare Infrastructure*  
 9. *Medical Devices*  
 10. *Pharmaceuticals*

FAB

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[illegible]

Assistant Professor  
Music, at the U.